BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.127 BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 34 | PRICE ₹6**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan takes responsibility for discrepancies related to CBSE's on-screen marking evaluation process and **assures strict action** against anyone found intentionally responsible for irregularities affecting students, P 5

Bashir Badr, 91, whose Urdu poetry seamlessly blended the personal with the universal & **whose ghazal recitals made him a major star at mushairas at home and abroad, passes away**

Neymar has been ruled out of Brazil's upcoming friendlies and is **set to miss their FIFA World Cup opener** after scans confirm a Grade-2 calf injury, Brazilian Football Confederation says, P 16

US & Iranian negotiators have reached agreement on a draft MoU extending the fragile ceasefire and opening a 60-day negotiating window focused primarily on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for economic relief, say reports, P 14

No nataka but hugs, tears as stage set for new CM

Siddaramaiah Resigns, Chooses K'taka Politics Over Rajya Sabha Berth

Manu Aiyappa Kanathanda & Sandeep Moudgal | TNN

Bengaluru: Drawing the curtains on a political career spanning nearly five decades, Siddaramaiah quietly resigned as Karnataka chief minister Thursday, ending months of speculation over a leadership change and clearing the path for KPCC chief D K Shivakumar to take charge, though the Congress is yet to formally announce a successor.

At a breakfast meeting hosted for cabinet colleagues earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah informed ministers about his decision to step down and indicated that Shivakumar would succeed him in line with directions from the Congress high command, according to senior ministers present at the meeting.

However, Siddaramaiah publicly avoided naming his successor at his farewell press conference, keeping the suspense alive even as Shivakumar sat beside him smiling through the interaction. "Whoever the legislature party and the high command decide will be the CM," Siddaramaiah said. Asked about Shivakumar becoming CM, Shivakumar's brother and former Congress MP D K Suresh added, "Let us wait for the party's decision."

The Congress high command is expected to convene a Congress Legislature Party meeting in Bengaluru after the governor formally accepts the resignation, likely on Friday, to elect the new leader.

Siddaramaiah also earlier revealed that he had declined the Congress leadership's offer of a national role through the Rajya Sabha. "The high command asked me to go to the Rajya Sabha. I declined it humbly. I am not interested in national politics. I will remain in state politics. The people have elected me for five years, and two years are still left. Till then, I will work for the people of Karnataka and for the people of my constituency," he said.

Party insiders, however, said the leadership may still try to persuade Siddaramaiah to reconsider, as June 8 is the last date for Rajya Sabha nominations.

▶ FULL COVERAGE: P 2
▶ Shock, grief envelops Siddaramanahundi, P 2

Siddaramaiah visited Lok Bhavan around 3pm and submitted his resignation. Since governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot was out of Bengaluru, he handed over the resignation letter to the governor's special secretary Prabhu Shankar. "I am confident the governor will accept my resignation as per constitutional provisions," Siddaramaiah said at his post-resignation press conference.

Rejecting suggestions that he was forced to quit, Siddaramaiah said, "What pressure? I voluntarily resigned immediately after they asked me to. I am leaving office with a clear conscience."

▶ 'Politics open book', P 4

TOI

CM Siddaramaiah hugs deputy CM DK Shivakumar during a breakfast meeting he hosted for cabinet colleagues at his residence on Thursday. AICC functionaries in New Delhi indicated that clarity on transition and structure of the new govt is likely within the next couple of days

MAY RETAIN LOYALISTS IN NEW GOVT

WHAT NEXT: GUV TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION, CLP TO ELECT NEW LEADER

- Karnataka **governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot** will examine **Siddaramaiah's resignation** and formally accept it
- State **govt headed by Siddaramaiah set to be dissolved** after guv notification; ministers to step down immediately
- Siddaramaiah **will continue as caretaker chief minister** until new cabinet takes oath
- Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar likely to **discuss cabinet formation with high command**
- High command may want to retain some **Siddaramaiah loyalists in new cabinet**
- **Congress Legislature Party meeting** to be convened to elect new leader
- Party high command likely to appoint **central observer for the CLP process**
- **New leader** will meet the governor and **stake claim to form govt**
- **Governor to invite CM-elect** to form govt after verifying majority support
- CM-elect will **submit fresh list of ministers** for cabinet formation
- **Lok Bhavan to ratify appointments** before new cabinet takes oath

> I am not interested in national politics... Till my last breath, I will continue to fight for social justice and stand against divisive communal forces that go against the spirit of our Constitution. I will continue to remain in active state politics... People have elected me for five years... I have never run after power or money. I never thought of accumulating wealth. My political career of 50 yrs is an open book
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH** | OUTGOING CHIEF MINISTER

> We are proud of Siddaramaiah's glorious tenure as Karnataka CM. Under his leadership, the state saw transformative growth that didn't remain on paper, but touched every single Kannadiga, especially those on the margins of society. Congress appreciates the selfless decision he has taken... The dignity and maturity with which he has conducted himself is an example of how public figures should conduct themselves
>
> **KC VENUGOPAL** | AICC GENERAL SECRETARY

> This morning at the breakfast meeting, CM Siddaramaiah said he is resigning at 3pm. He also said that DK Shivakumar will be the new chief minister. They are going to Delhi, but Shivakumar will be the new CM...
>
> **HK PATIL** | KARNATAKA LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER

> Congress govt has turned Karnataka into an ATM for its high command. Merely changing faces won't fix the deep financial crisis, stalled development or distress of our farmers and youth. It is time to dissolve the assembly and head for fresh elections...
>
> **BY VIJAYENDRA** | BJP STATE PRESIDENT

DKS set to be record 5th CM from Bengaluru South district

Bengaluru: Deputy CM DK Shivakumar looks all set to become Karnataka's next chief minister, following Siddaramaiah's resignation. Senior minister H K Patil dropped strong hints about the leadership transition after attending the outgoing CM's breakfast meeting with cabinet colleagues here Thursday, **reports Santosh Kumar B**.

Shivakumar's elevation will make Bengaluru South — formerly Ramanagara — the only district in Karnataka to have produced five chief ministers.

Though based in Bengaluru city, Shivakumar represents Kanakapura and will become only the second CM from the constituency after Ramakrishna Hegde, who won from Kanakapura in 1983. Ramanagara, which was part of Bengaluru district till 1986 and Bengaluru Rural district till 2007, had produced four chief ministers — Kengal Hanumanthaiah, Ramakrishna Hegde, H D Deve Gowda and H D Kumaraswamy.

However, none of them completed a full five-year term in office. Until now, Shivamogga and Ramanagara districts have produced four chief ministers each. Hanumanthaiah, elected from Ramanagara in the then Mysore state, was the last Congress CM from the district.

▶ EDIT PAGE: Bangalored: Siddaramaiah & His Successor
▶ Student union, P 4

Kerala model: More ministers below 50 likely in new Karnataka cabinet

The next Karnataka cabinet may mirror the Congress-led UDF's Kerala model, with the high command considering a younger team after Siddaramaiah's exit and D K Shivakumar's likely elevation as CM, reports **Sandeep Moudgal**. Several senior ministers, including H C Mahadevappa, K J George and G Parameshwara, may be dropped, while Siddaramaiah loyalists are also under scrutiny. Sources said Rahul Gandhi favours a generational shift, with more ministers below 50. Around 15 existing ministers and five younger faces could be retained, with the remaining berths going to new entrants. Senior leaders, however, cautioned against sidelining experienced hands entirely. P 2

Cong strategists wary of Patil redux

As the Congress brass looks set to replace Siddaramaiah with D K Shivakumar, party strategists fear a repeat of the 1990 Veerendra Patil episode, when he was removed as the chief minister — alienating Lingayats and aiding BJP's rise in Karnataka, reports **Niranjan Kaggere**. Netas worry Siddaramaiah's exit now could upset the crucial Ahinda bloc. P 2

CM's special flight to Delhi diverted to Jaipur; meeting with Rahul today

A special flight carrying Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah was diverted to Jaipur Thursday due to adverse weather conditions in Delhi. Siddaramaiah was on his way to the national capital to meet the party high command after resigning from his post. The meeting with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will now be on Friday morning.

Several senior Congress leaders and Karnataka ministers were onboard the flight, including state in-charge AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, ministers KJ George and Byarthi Suresh, legal adviser AS Ponnanna, Legislative Council member Yathindra Siddaramaiah, and AICC secretary Abhishek Dutt. TNN

First CCI chief dies in AC fire at Delhi home

Dhanendra Kumar, a retired IAS officer who served as the first chairman of Competition Commission of India and was also executive director at the World Bank, died and his son was injured after a fire broke out following an AC explosion in the ground floor of their three-storey house in South Delhi's Hauz Khas Enclave late Wednesday night. Kumar, 80, died due to severe smoke inhalation early Thursday. P 5

8 chargesheets filed in TCS cases

Nashik police Thursday filed eight chargesheets against multiple accused in eight of the nine cases filed over allegations of sexual harassment and hurting religious sentiments at the TCS office in Nashik. SIT head ACP Sandip Mitke said the chargesheets, collectively running into more than 2,000 pages

CBI arrests Twisha's mom-in-law, a retd district judge, for her death

Questioned For 7 Hrs At Residence Before Custody

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Bhopal: CBI arrested Thursday former district judge Giribala Singh after nearly seven hours of questioning in connection with the death of daughter-in-law Twisha Sharma and allegations of dowry harassment.

The arrest came less than 24 hours after Madhya Pradesh high court cancelled the 63-year-old Giribala's anticipatory bail, granted by a lower court days after Twisha died by alleged suicide at her marital home in Bhopal on May 12.

The former judge's son and advocate, Samarth, is already in CBI custody. The mysterious death of his wife Twisha, a model-turned-actor, has sparked outrage amid allegations from her Noida-based family of foul play and attempts to derail investigations.

TOI

Giribala Singh (middle) being taken away following her arrest

On Tuesday, CBI sleuths reached Giribala's residence in Bhopal's upscale Bag Mughaliya Extension early morning when she had just started her day the usual way — feeding stray dogs outside her gates.

Questioning began soon after and continued till early evening when the CBI team took Giribala into custody after formally intimating the serving Bhopal district judge about the grounds of her arrest in line with norms. Sources indicated Giribala and her son were likely to be produced before court together on Friday, when Samarth's CBI remand is also set to end.

Late Tuesday evening, Giribala was taken to a lodging facility in Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), a Centre-run institute in Bhopal where she was kept under CBI's watch ahead of her court appearance Friday for remand proceedings.

Giribala has been booked under provisions related to dowry death, cruelty, common intention. Twisha was cremated on May 24, 12 days after her death, following a second autopsy by doctors of AIIMS-Delhi, on the high court's orders. The autopsy report is yet to be submitted.

The Madhya Pradesh govt had earlier transferred the case to CBI from Bhopal police, a decision that was confirmed by the high court and later by Supreme Court.

Smaller states beat richest on health spend, shows govt data

New Delhi: Several northeastern and other smaller states are spending proportionately more on public healthcare than many of its richer states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana, shows National Health Accounts (NHA) 2022-23 data released by health ministry, **reports Anuja Jaiswal**.

▶ Out-of-pocket spending on healthcare high, P 8

Manipur govt's health expenditure as a proportion of its GSDP was the highest in the country at 5.5%, up from 4.6% in 2021-22. Meghalaya spent 4.4% on health, while Nagaland's spending rose from 3.4% to 3.6% and Mizoram reported 3.2%. Some of India's largest and richest states spent less than 1% of GSDP on health. Karnataka spent 0.7% of its GSDP on health in 2022-23, down from 1.1% in 2021-22.

▶ Puducherry highest, P 8

BJP appoints Jat Sikh as Pjb prez; Delhi, Tripura, Hry also get new chiefs

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New Delhi: BJP on Thursday appointed **Kewal Singh Dhillon**, a Jat Sikh from the politically decisive Malwa region, its Punjab president, signalling its ambitious outreach to Sikhs as the state gears up for assembly polls and named Union minister Harsh Malhotra its Delhi unit president as part of top-level changes it made in four states, including in Haryana and Tripura.

With three contenders for power in the crowded political arena of Punjab being led by a Jat Sikh, a largely agrarian community, BJP's gambit on Dhillon is part audacious and part risky but also underscores its determined bid to make inroads in the influential demography which was at the forefront of agitation against farm laws, withdrawn by govt in 2021.

AAP leader and CM Bhagwant Mann, state Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring and Akali Dal supremo Sukhbir Singh Badal hail from the community in a state where BJP's core vote bank has been urban Hindus.

CABINET REJIG NEXT?

- Kewal Singh Dhillon, 76, is **only the second Sikh to head BJP in Punjab** after former MP Daya Singh Sodhi
- Appointment of **Harsh Malhotra as Delhi BJP chief triggers buzz over a Cabinet reshuffle** in central govt
- **In Haryana, BJP elevates Archana Gupta** from general secretary to party president
- MLA **Abhishek Debroy is BJP's Tripura president**

▶ 2nd to head Pjb BJP, P 10

On Saudi death row for 20 yrs, Kerala man back home on Eid

Kozhikode: It couldn't have been a happier Eid for Abdul Rahim, a Kerala native whose conviction and death sentence on murder charges in Saudi Arabia prompted one of the biggest crowdfunding campaigns by Malayalis worldwide to raise 'blood money' for securing his release. On Thursday morning, the 46-year-old returned home after spending nearly 20 years in a Saudi prison for the death of his employer's differently-abled son, which he insisted was an accident.

The homecoming was marked by an outpouring of emotions. Rahim, a native of Kuttampuzha near Feroke in Kozhikode, landed at Calicut airport around 7.30am by an Air India Express flight that took off from Riyadh on Wednesday night. A large number of people had gathered at the airport to welcome him. TNN

▶ Malayalees pooled, P 6

Dormant e-comm a/cs a new target?

Dormant e-commerce accounts are increasingly becoming a target for fraudsters. Experts say saved payment details make these accounts vulnerable to unauthorised purchases, fraud and device farming. P 13

Bavi is Anthropic India growth head

Anthropic has appointed Sangeeta Bavi as head of digital natives, startups and growth in India to drive Claude adoption among startups and mid-sized firms. She previously worked at YourStory and Microsoft. P 13

Data: Highest child marriages in Bengal

Data showed child marriage persists in India despite campaigns against it, with Bengal reporting highest proportion of girls marrying before 18 at 6.3% against national figure of 2.1%. P 11

Centre may use IAF jets to fly NEET question papers for June 21 retest

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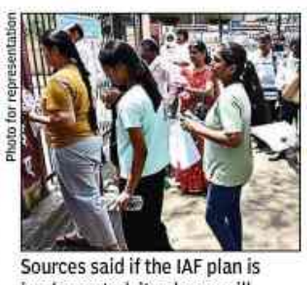
New Delhi: To prevent paper leak in NEET-UG, Centre is actively exploring the use of IAF aircraft for transportation of question papers for the June 21 re-test, as part of a wider "whole-of-govt" security strategy involving ministry of home affairs, central agencies and state police networks.

The proposal was discussed at a high-level meeting chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday and attended by education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, senior PMO officials, National Testing Agency director general Abhishek Singh and top bureaucrats from multiple ministries.

According to education ministry sources, govt is considering deploying IAF only for transportation logistics "because of time constraints and because govt does not want to take any chances this time". Sources stressed that no final decision has yet been taken and the proposal will be placed before PM Modi before any formal approval.

Photo for representation



Sources said if the IAF plan is implemented, its planes will deliver NEET exam papers to select locations in a state

▶ PM to monitor, P 8

UP education dept officers told to gather straw for cows

Bareilly: In a bizarre administrative direction, block education officers (BEOs) in Bareilly were ordered to collect 1,500 quintals of straw for stray cattle housed in local cow shelters. The order by Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Vineeta Singh earlier this month mandated each of the district's 15 BEOs to collect at least 100 quintals of the fodder from their respective blocks, **reports Krishna Chaudhary**.

The matter ignited a huge controversy after an official letter issued by Nawabganj BEO, Satyadev, on May 22 following the BSA's order was leaked online. The letter warned teachers that they had 7 days to gather the straw, threatening an inter-departmental probe against anyone who failed to comply.

▶ Treats as free labour, P 8

Top court acquits man who was sent to gallows for rape-murder

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New Delhi: A man who was awarded death sentence in a rape-cum-murder case despite being incapable of engaging in sexual intercourse and spent 13 years under the shadow of death was acquitted along with the other accused by Supreme Court on account of his medical condition and lack of conclusive evidence against them.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi quashed trial court and high court orders that had convicted the man and his friend and awarded them death sentence for rape-cum-murder of a 55-year-old woman, saying both courts had glossed over patent infirmities and loopholes in the prosecution case.

"The prosecution has sought to attribute a motive to the appellants by alleging that they subjected the deceased-victim to sexual assault in order to satisfy their carnal desires and thereafter caused her death when she resisted. However, the evidence brought on record does not lend credence to this theory of motive. Significantly, Dr B S Aswal (PW-12), who medically examined accused No.1-Mehtab, categorically deposed that owing to a medical condition suffered by the said accused, it was not possible for him to engage in sexual intercourse. This aspect assumes considerable importance because the prosecution case itself proceeds on the footing that the alleged sexual assault constituted the genesis of the entire occurrence...." bench said.

In the absence of any cogent evidence substantiating the alleged motive, coupled with the medical evidence, the prosecution theory was highly doubtful and does not inspire confidence, it said.

The incident came to light when the body of the woman was found in a forest in 2013. Both the accused were put on trial and given death sentence in 2014, with HC upholding the order in 2018. The convicts thereafter moved SC.

IN THE COURTS

- **WFI moves SC against** HC order allowing **Vinesh to participate in Asian Games** 2026 selection trials | P 16
- SC directs states & UTs to integrate **emergency helpline 112 in 3 mths** | P 8
- Bank error, not fraud: Delhi **HC tells SBI to refund ₹3.6L pension recovery** | P 7
- K'taka HC grants **bail to radiologist.** He had **failed to report minor's scan** | P 3

▶ Points out lapses, P 6

Cancer survivor summits Everest in 'under 10 hrs', breaks '03 record

American endurance athlete and cancer survivor Tyler Andrews set a new Mount Everest speed record by climbing from Nepal's 5,364m Base Camp to the 8,848.86m summit in 9 hours 55 minutes Thursday. He became the first non-Sherpa climber to break the long-standing 2003 Sherpa record of 10 hours, 56 minutes. Andrews completed the ascent after four failed attempts across two seasons, **reports Vishant Agarwala**.

The 36-year-old climber's achievement, which is still awaiting official verification by Nepal authorities, was supported by GPS tracking and expedition staff confirmation. Andrews, who overcame aplastic anaemia in childhood, has previously set multiple global endurance climbing records. P 14

Bangalore Times

Even the Pope couldn't make it dope

ONCE MORE?
EE SALA CUP NAMDE

Bengaluru's pubs, breweries and sports bars are buzzing for a blockbuster cricket weekend

P2

Buzzstop

YET TO PERFORM IN ISTANBUL AND ONGOING BACKLASH

STANLEY
Makers Of Beautiful

WHITE BELONGS TO A RARE FEW

Stanley. 50 Shades of White. Perfected.

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ALL IN A DAY

9AM Siddaramaiah hosts breakfast for 30 ministers at his residence. At the head of the table, he was flanked by CM aspirants, deputy CM DK Shivakumar and home minister G Parameshwara

12PM: At the end of the two-hour breakfast meeting, fans greet him at Cauvery, his residence, with sloganeering, hugs, handshakes, and tears

2:47PM: Arrives at Lok Bhavan to meet governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot. In the governor's absence, he hands over his resignation to an official

2:59PM: Leaves Lok Bhavan in a black Range Rover — not his official vehicle. Driven by Byrathi Suresh, he travels along with Parameshwara and DK Shivakumar. He returns to Cauvery to address reporters

3:10PM: Officially announces that he has 'voluntarily resigned' on instructions from the party high command. Reveals he has refused the offer of a Rajya Sabha seat. He doesn't name a successor. Thanks Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Mallikarjun Kharge

4:30PM: Arrives at HAL Airport and leaves for Delhi, but flight is diverted to Jaipur. He is scheduled to return Friday

Only three CMs have completed full terms

Karnataka's politics has been marked by instability, resignations, coalition collapses and leadership changes so much so that, since 1956, only S Nijalingappa (1962-68), D Devaraj Urs (1972-77) and Siddaramaiah (2013-18) have completed full five-year tenures

1958 | S Nijalingappa | The veteran Congressman assumed charge as CM after the unification of Mysore state but rebellion by Lingayat MLAs in Congress disrupted his administration. Congress' high command sided with the rebels and Nijalingappa was forced to resign well before completing his term. He was replaced by BD Jatti

1971 | Veerendra Patil | Following a split in Congress party in 1969, Lingayat representative Veerendra Patil, who aligned with Congress (Organisation) faction, became CM. However, after Indira Gandhi secured a landslide victory in the 1971 general elections, several ministers and MLAs defected to her faction. The govt lost its majority and collapsed, paving the way for the first imposition of President's Rule in Karnataka

1980 | D Devaraj Urs | Widely regarded as a mass leader of backward communities, Urs became CM for a second term. After falling out with Indira Gandhi, Urs floated his own faction, Congress (Urs). But when Indira Gandhi returned to the helm at the Centre in 1980, several MLAs from Urs' faction shifted allegiance to the Indira-led Congress. Urs' govt lost its majority and he resigned. He was succeeded by R Gundu Rao

1988 | Ramakrishna Hegde | He was Karnataka's first non-Congress CM, but resigned amid allegations of phone tapping involving opposition leaders and dissenters in his own party. Claiming moral responsibility, Hegde stepped down midway through his term. SR Bommai succeeded him

1990 | Veerendra Patil | Congress secured a thumping win in the 1989 elections, and Veerendra Patil was again chosen as CM. However, within a year, communal clashes in Channapatna and Davanagere triggered a major law-and-order crisis. Patil, meanwhile, was recovering from paralysis in hospital. During a visit to Karnataka, Congress president Rajiv Gandhi announced at Bengaluru airport that Patil would be replaced. S Bangarappa was made CM

1992 | S Bangarappa | His tenure was marred by allegations of corruption and internal rebellion. Dissidents led by senior functionary M Veerappa Moily openly campaigned against him. Alarmed by the turmoil, Congress asked Bangarappa to resign and appointed Veerappa Moily as CM

1996 | HD Deve Gowda | After Janata Dal defeated Congress in 1994, HD Deve Gowda was sworn in as CM. But a fractured verdict in the 1996 general elections saw Gowda chosen as PM. He resigned as CM, paving the way for JH Patel to take charge

2006 | N Dharam Singh | Following a fractured mandate in the 2004 assembly polls, Congress formed a coalition govt with JD(S), led by Dharam Singh. But in 2006, JD(S) members led by HD Kumaraswamy withdrew support and aligned with BJP. Singh resigned, paving the way for Kumaraswamy to become CM

2007 | HD Kumaraswamy | After completing 20 months in office, Kumaraswamy refused to transfer authority to BJP as per a coalition agreement. He resigned amid turmoil, following which BS Yediyurappa was sworn in as CM. However, Yediyurappa's govt lasted only seven days after JD(S) withdrew support

2008–2013 | BS Yediyurappa | DV Sadananda Gowda | Jagadish Shettar | BJP formed its first govt in south India in 2008, with Yediyurappa as CM. But when the Lokayukta registered an FIR against him in the illegal mining case in 2011, BJP high command asked him to quit. Sadananda Gowda succeeded him but resigned within 11 months due to resistance from his own party legislators. Jagadish Shettar was CM for the final year of the govt's term

2019–2023 | HD Kumaraswamy | BS Yediyurappa | Basavaraj Bommai | Following a hung verdict in 2018, Congress again partnered with JD(S) and Kumaraswamy took oath as CM. But rebellion and differences triggered the resignation of 17 MLAs and the govt lost its majority a year later. Yediyurappa returned as CM for the fourth time, but he too was asked to step down in 2021, and BJP's high command replaced him with Basavaraj Bommai

— Niranjan Kaggere

Am going nowhere, will stay active, says Siddaramaiah

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Bengaluru: Barely an hour after handing in his resignation as chief minister at Lok Bhavan Thursday, Siddaramaiah insisted that his political career is far from over, a signal that could impact political equations and weigh heavily on his successor.

Invoking his socialist roots and Ahinda politics, Siddaramaiah said social justice will continue to guide the rest of his public life.

"I shall remain in active politics to defeat communal forces and ensure social justice till my last breath," Siddaramaiah declared at a packed press conference at his residence. "Through my tenure of close to 50 years in active politics, I have remained true to my principles and never compromised on them. I have believed in the words of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Buddha and Basavanna and imparting social justice has been evident in my work as opposition leader and as chief minister across two terms from 2013 to 2018 and from 2023 till date."

The 77-year-old, regarded as one of Karnataka's tallest OBC politicians in recent decades, said protecting the Constitution remained his foremost commitment. "Had it not been for the Constitution, a simple villager like me would not have had an education, would not have become an MLA, a minister, a deputy CM, opposition leader and two-time CM," he said.

TOI

TRADITIONAL GESTURE: DK Shivakumar drew much praise after he sought Siddaramaiah's blessings during the breakfast meet

Guarantee satisfaction

He said he was satisfied with his career and tenure as CM, especially implementation of the guarantee schemes, which he credited for improving living standards and boosting Karnataka's economy.

"The rollout of the schemes in the very first year of our govt brought me and the party immense satisfaction," he said. "It helped Karnataka gain the number one spot in the country in per capita income. It was also in line with my thinking of social and economic justice which I pursued through my two terms as CM."

State finances

He said critics — largely BJP — had predicted financial disaster if the guarantees were rolled out. "BJP, including none other than the prime minister of our country, attacked me saying the guarantee schemes would bring the state financial ruin and bankruptcy. But we proved them wrong and maintained our position within the fiscal responsibility and budget management limits," he said, while admitting his govt could not achieve revenue surplus.

He also accused the previous BJP govt of financial mismanagement. "They left behind a financial mess and a debt burden of Rs 19,000 crore which we had to clean up," he said.

Recalling his entry into Congress in 2006 after leading the Ahinda movement, Siddaramaiah said late Congress strategist Ahmed Patel played a key role in introducing him to Sonia Gandhi. "After that introduction, several of my late colleagues including Manchenahalli Mahadeva, HY Meti and I joined Congress. I am indebted to them and the party for the opportunity they provided me to become a two-time opposition leader and twice CM," he said.

Emotional adieu at breakfast meet

Pics: TOI

SAD MOMENT: Minister Santosh Lad leaves Siddaramaiah's residence in tears. (Right) Satish Jarkiholi speaks to reporters

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Bengaluru: Tears, tight embraces and emotional goodbyes marked Siddaramaiah's final breakfast meeting as chief minister with his cabinet colleagues at Cauvery, his official residence Thursday.

For nearly two hours, ministers gathered around the veteran as he formally informed them of his decision to resign, bringing the curtain down on one of Karnataka's longest and most influential chief ministerial tenures. "I have no regrets. I am resigning wholeheartedly," Siddaramaiah said.

The most emotional moment came when deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who had lobbied hard and long for the CM post, hugged Siddaramaiah and touched his feet, seeking his blessings — a gesture that was not lost on others at the meeting. Sources say it was orchestrated by the party high command but Siddaramaiah played perfectly to the gallery.Prior to the breakfast meeting, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar held a separate closed-door discussion.

Several were visibly moved as Siddaramaiah spoke of his political journey, governance challenges and the transition ahead. He reminded them that it was his duty to abide by Congress high command's decision and asked them to extend the same cooperation to the next govt.

"You all extended your full cooperation to me. I received good support. Continue the same work with the new CM," Siddaramaiah said. A minister said Shivakumar became emotional after the announcement as Siddaramaiah honoured a transition commitment made earlier.

The breakfast spread reflected a typical Karnataka political gathering with idlis, vadas, dosas, khara bath, kesari bath, coconut chutney and sambar served alongside fruits, tea and coffee but not many were interested in the food. Siddaramaiah reportedly apologised to his team if he had ever spoken harshly to them, saying it was always meant to improve governance and party welfare.

Health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and labour minister Santosh Lad broke down after Siddaramaiah said it would be his final meeting with his cabinet. Lad, who served twice under Siddaramaiah, was seen crying uncontrollably in his car while leaving Cauvery.

Siddaramaiah also reflected on the strain of managing the finances of his govt's ambitious guarantee schemes. "I had a difficult time, but I did not give up," said Siddaramaiah, who has presented a record 17 budgets during his political career.

Outside Cauvery, hundreds of supporters gathered to catch a final glimpse of the veteran. Siddaramaiah himself turned emotional seeing the crowd, acknowledging supporters with tears rolling down his cheeks before leaving.

Calm goodbye from state's most combative socialist

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Bengaluru: Unlike his combative political image and reputation for taking on rivals head-on, Siddaramaiah's exit as chief minister unfolded with unusual calm, restraint and political maturity, surprising critics and close associates alike.

The 77-year-old maintained a dignified silence in public after returning from New Delhi on Tuesday night following meetings with the Congress high command. There was no public display of anger, disappointment or bitterness despite being asked to step down midway through his tenure.

Sources say he consciously chose not to make his departure unceremonious, despite appeals from loyalists and supporters to delay his resignation or force a showdown with the party high command.

"We don't know whether it was out of loyalty to the Gandhis or because of the political future of his son, Yathindra, but he made it clear that party discipline was of utmost importance," an MLA said. "That message prevented a confrontation."

At breakfast Thursday, Siddaramaiah appeared composed even as many of his cabinet colleagues broke down. "He behaved like a statesman accepting the party's decision gracefully," a minister said. At a press conference after submitting his resignation at Lok Bhavan, Siddaramaiah struck a reflective tone while recalling his long political journey. He revealed it was Sonia Gandhi, Congress parliamentary party chairperson, who invited him to join Congress after he was expelled from JD(S) in 2006.

"I'll always be grateful to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," Siddaramaiah said. "Rahul gave me an opportunity to be CM twice and allowed me to continue as CLP leader for 17 years."

Muthu P

ACCEPTANCE: Siddaramaiah speaks to reporters after he handed in his resignation as chief minister on Thursday

Sources say he consciously chose not to make his departure unceremonious, despite appeals from loyalists and supporters to delay his resignation or force a showdown with the party high command

Siddaramaiah's restrained conduct stood in sharp contrast to the aggressive political style that marked his rise in politics. He built his career by taking on powerful rivals, especially former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's family, after his expulsion from JD(S). He also went up against the Reddy brothers by undertaking a 320km padayatra from Bengaluru to Ballari against alleged illegal mining.

Within Congress too, Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar were often seen as rival power centres, engaged in an uneasy balancing act. During Siddaramaiah's first tenure as CM, Shivakumar was initially kept out of the cabinet and was inducted only after the party high command intervened.

Given this political background, many privately believed Siddaramaiah would resist the call to step down or, at the least, encourage loyalists to rebel. "Most people expected some resistance since he still commands enormous influence within the legislature party. But he surprised everyone," political strategist M B Maramkal said. "By stepping aside quietly, he has protected both his legacy and the party."

PROTESTS ACROSS STATE

Sporadic protests erupted across the state soon after Siddaramaiah resigned as CM. Protesters burnt tyres, raised slogans and demanded that he continue in office. In Yadgir, members of Karnataka Pradesh Kurubara Sangha blocked traffic and formed a human chain. A supporter allegedly attempted to consume poison, but was stopped by bystanders. In Kalaburagi too, members of the Kuruba community demanded that Siddaramaiah remain chief minister till 2028.

Kerala model could leave senior ministers out of new cabinet

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Bengaluru: The next state cabinet could mirror the Congress-led UDF experiment in Kerala, with the party high command weighing a younger and fresher team after Siddaramaiah's exit as chief minister.

Congress appears headed for a major balancing exercise as it prepares to hand the reins possibly to DK Shivakumar, 64, currently deputy CM. Speculation is rife that several seniors in Siddaramaiah's cabinet may not find a place in the next govt if Shivakumar takes over. Among those who could lose out are social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa (73), energy minister KJ George (76) and home minister G Parameshwara (74).

Byrathi Suresh, Santosh Lad, Dinesh Gundu Rao and BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan are also believed to be under the lens because of their close association with the outgoing CM. Sources say such a reshuffle could align with Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi's push for a younger cabinet, similar to the model adopted by the UDF in Kerala.

However, senior functionaries insisted no final decision has been communicated so far, and that experience would continue to remain a key consideration while choosing the new council of ministers.

Some say party brass is considering a "healthy mixture" of experience and younger faces. About 15 ministers and five younger ministers from the Siddaramaiah govt could be retained, while the remaining berths may go to new entrants hand-picked by Shivakumar.

Karnataka has 34 cabinet positions, including that of the CM. Three berths are currently vacant following the resignations of KN Rajanna and B Nagendra and the death of D Sudhakar. Functionaries say Rahul had advised Siddaramaiah to pick more MLA below the age of 50 in his cabinet. A similar formula is expected to guide the process now. But former minister RV Deshpande cautioned against sidelining experienced members in the push for generational change. "We have not heard anything on the new cabinet so far, but if a govt must run there cannot be only fresh faces," the 79-year-old Desphande told **TOI**. "While fresh faces are welcome, there needs to be continuity and the govt needs experienced hands to function."

Asked whether he would consider a cabinet berth if offered, he said: "I will not chase titles and positions but if the opportunity comes my way, I will consider it."

PTI

SERENE SHIVAKUMAR

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar has kept a stoic silence since the meeting with Congress' high command Tuesday. Though journalists repeatedly tried to draw him out on Siddaramaiah's resignation and the leadership transition, Shivakumar has refused to comment. Yet, he has appeared visibly satisfied. Shivakumar drew praise even from rivals when he touched Siddaramaiah's feet at the breakfast meeting.

CHEERS! A poster of DK Shivakumar, amid speculation that he would be the next CM

Another switch: 'Veerendra Patil mistake' hangs over Congress

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Bengaluru: As Karnataka stands on the brink of another high-stakes political transition, an uncomfortable question is beginning to trouble Congress brass in Delhi: Is Rahul Gandhi at risk of repeating a political miscalculation that disrupted the party's social base in the state more than three decades ago?

In 1990, the abrupt removal of veteran Lingayat functionary and then chief minister Veerendra Patil by then Congress president Rajiv Gandhi marked a defining moment in Karnataka politics. Patil, battling serious health issues at the time, was unceremoniously removed by the high command with Rajiv Gandhi making the announcement at Bangalore's airport. Lingayats perceived it as humiliating and deeply disrespectful to one of their tallest leaders.

The fallout was not merely bitter — its political consequences were historic. The Lingayat community, once a dependable Congress support base and a dominant force in Karnataka's electoral politics, gradually drifted away from Congress and gravitated toward BJP. That shift laid the foundation for BJP's rise in Karnataka.

Now, three decades later, Karnataka Congress finds itself facing a similarly delicate moment. This time, the issue is the powerful Ahinda coalition — minorities, backward classes and Dalits. The Ahinda social bloc has long been the backbone of Siddaramaiah's political identity and remains one of the party's strongest electoral pillars.

File picture

ABRUPT EXIT: Veerendra Patil (left)

But with growing speculation that deputy CM DK Shivakumar could replace Siddaramaiah under an alleged power-sharing arrangement, discontent is brewing within sections of the party. While Shivakumar enjoys support among the Vokkaliga community and retains the confidence of the Gandhi family, several party strategists fear that the removal of Siddaramaiah midway through his term could send a damaging message to Ahinda voters — especially if the transition is perceived as politically engineered from Delhi.

Unlike Veerendra Patil's exit, Siddaramaiah's possible departure may not trigger an open rebellion. Yet, politically, the symbolism could prove equally significant. Siddaramaiah is not merely a CM; for many backward caste communities, he represents social assertion and political empowerment in a state historically dominated by powerful caste elites such as Lingayats and Vokkaligas. Even the perception that he was "removed" despite leading a stable govt and welfare-driven administration could deepen resentment among sections of the Congress' traditional support base.

However, some political observers believe Congress has handled the situation more cautiously this time. "Speculation around a leadership change has been circulating for months, both online and offline. People have gradually come to terms with the possibility of Siddaramaiah stepping aside, so it has not come as a shock to many," a political tracker said.

Amid this backdrop, the high command faces a delicate balancing act. On one side is Shivakumar—the loyal organisational troubleshooter who has patiently waited for his turn and enjoys immense goodwill within the leadership. On the other is Siddaramaiah—the mass leader whose Ahinda coalition remains electorally crucial if the party hopes to retain power in the 2028 assembly elections.

Shock, grief envelop Siddaramanahundi

Mysuru: Siddaramanahundi, Siddaramaiah's native village in Varuna segment, has fallen silent since Tuesday .

Siddaramaiah's emotional bonding and connection with his roots had endeared him with the people of the small village, located 25km from Mysuru. Villagers have stayed glued to television screens and their mobiles, hoping against hope for a miracle. But by Thursday, as the news of Siddaramaiah's resignation trickled in, grief swept the village.

Anand, Siddaramaiah's neighbour, said: "We are still in shock. Siddaramaiah has done a lot to develop this village and Varuna. We are also worried over the fate of these works." During a visit to Varuna in March, Siddaramaiah had inaugurated developmental works worth over Rs 324 crore.

Anjanayya, a local, said many seniors still call him by his name. "Even after becoming CM twice, he didn't change," he said. Many left for Bengaluru to meet him. "His decision not to opt for a Rajya Sabha seat but continue here is a small relief," said Anjanayya. TNN

The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital • Joe Paterno

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890 trees shadow Metro rail, 100 too close for comfort

Official: Pruning Is Carried Out Periodically

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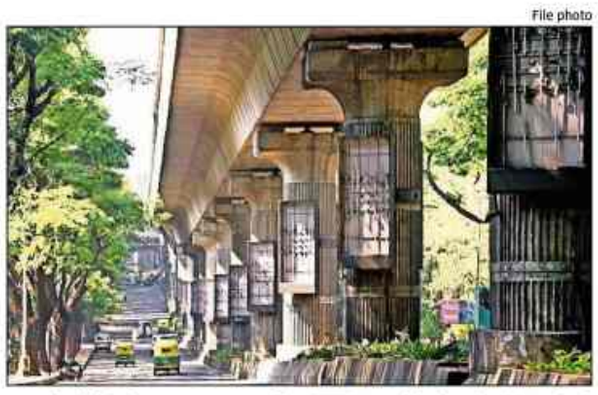
File photo

On the Purple Line, 523 trees are located close to the viaduct, of which 35 are located within 10m, while 370 trees are located on Green Line, and 71 within 10m. Officials say on the elevated section of the Yellow Line, trees do not pose operational risks

Bengaluru: Within a month, Namma Metro services have been disrupted three times, with heavy rain and gusty winds twice halting operations on parts of the network.

In the latest incident Tuesday, commuters were stranded for nearly 30 minutes after a tree branch fell on the track between ITPB and Sathya Sai Hospital stations, forcing a suspension of services between Whitefield and Garudacharpalya.

The disruption affected passengers across 10 stations on the busy Whitefield corridor during peak evening hours. It also left commuters questioning why Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had not taken preventive measures, such as pruning tree branches that are very close to the elevated tracks.

BMRCL officials said there are around 890 trees located close to the elevated viaducts on Challaghatta–Whitefield and Silk Institute–Madavara corridors.

Of these, 100-odd ones stand within just 10 metres of the tracks. Officials maintained that periodic pruning is being carried out considering the operational risks posed by the trees during heavy rain and strong winds.

On Purple Line, 523 trees are located close to the viaduct, of which 35 are located within 10 metres, while 370 trees are located on Green Line, and 71 within 10 metres. Officials claimed that on the elevated section of Yellow Line from RV Road to Bommasandra, trees do not pose operational risks.

A BMRCL official said pruning of trees located close to Metro viaducts is carried out periodically, especially ahead of monsoon, to prevent branches from falling onto the tracks during heavy rain and high wind conditions.

"On May 27, a small tree log fell on the track between ITPB and Sathya Sai Hospital stations on the Purple Line. As per standard operating protocol, train services on the affected stretch were temporarily suspended till the obstruction was removed and track safety inspections were completed," the official said.

A senior official of BMRCL said that Namma Metro operates on a 750-volt DC third-rail traction system, in which electrical energy is supplied to trains. "Any foreign object on the track cannot be ignored. If it comes in contact with the train or the third-rail power supply system, it can lead to operational and safety risks. To avoid major disruptions, services are halted immediately and resumed only after inspections are completed," the official added.

During thunderstorms accompanied by strong gusty winds, the Operational Control Centre (OCC), in accordance with the established standard operating procedure, directs loco pilots to reduce train speeds on elevated sections as a precautionary safety measure.

On May 21, because of heavy rain and gusty winds, trains in services were delayed on all stretches. On that day, metal sheets from nearby structures were blown onto the tracks, resulting in disruption of services.

The official added that daily inspections of 750V DC third-rail traction system, including fittings and related components, are carried out to ensure safe operations. He said automated pumps installed in underground sections drain out rainwater and prevent water accumulation, helping ensure uninterrupted operations during heavy rain.

7-point plan pilot in Begur

Bengaluru: Begur, one of the city's heritage localities, has been selected as the pilot area for Bengaluru South City Corporation's new 'Resilient Neighbourhood' initiative. Under this, Begur will see implementation of Ward Climate Action Plan (WCAP), conceived after stages of mapping and consultation with ward stakeholders.

The announcement was made during a workshop Thursday, organised by the corporation for its engineers and officials to prepare the current year's action plan. The seven-point action plan focused on pedestrian infrastructure, elimination of garbage blackspots, safer roads, public spaces, climate resilience, protection of vulnerable sections and community participation. Key proposals included building and maintaining walkable footpaths, eliminating garbage blackspots, installing bollards and pedestrian crossings, improving street lighting and strengthening stormwater drain networks.

To address climate change and water scarcity, the corporation plans to promote rainwater harvesting, recharge wells, lake rejuvenation, scientific solid waste management, cool roofs and solar rooftops. TNN

RPF seizes Korean cigarettes worth ₹30L from Delhi train

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TOI

MAJOR HAUL RPF seized nearly 2 lakh Korean-brand ESSE Light Super Slim cigarettes, packed into 20 carton boxes, from a parcel train that arrived from Okhla, Delhi, at Yeshwantpur station Tuesday

Bengaluru: After illegal liquor, smugglers are now allegedly using parcel trains from Delhi to traffic foreign-brand cigarettes into Bengaluru, exposing what authorities suspect is a growing interstate

THIRD IN A WEEK

smuggling network. In the third major seizure linked to the same Delhi-Bengaluru route within a week, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel at Yeshwantpur station seized 2 lakh foreign-manufactured cigarettes worth around Rs 30 lakh Tuesday.

The consignment, comprising Korean brand ESSE Light Super Slim cigarettes, arrived on parcel special train number 00630 from Okhla in Delhi — the same train from which more than 1,000 litres of illegal liquor were seized last Thursday. On Monday night, RPF officials also intercepted liquor worth Rs 17 lakh, packed in 17 carton boxes, on the same route.

Officials said the latest seizure was made following a specific alert from Delhi authorities. During inspection of coach no. SWR LWRRM 178854, they found 20 carton boxes suspected to contain foreign cigarettes. Verification revealed the consignment contained 1,99,600 cigarette sticks, allegedly smuggled into the country in violation of Customs Act provisions. RPF immediately alerted the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), customs officials, and local police. The seized cartons were later handed over to customs, Bengaluru zone, which has initiated further investigation.

"In both cases, the parcel van was booked by the same logistics company. We are collecting details and investigating how it happened. We have arrested one individual here, while Delhi police have arrested three," Karnataka excise commissioner R Venkatesh Kumar told **TOI**.

Checks intensified

Following repeated seizures, RPF, Government Railway Police (GRP) and the excise department have intensified checks on trains arriving from Okhla. Officials suspect the consignments were moved using false declarations to bypass scrutiny.

RPF sources said the parcel train had been contractually leased to Mumbai-based AVG Logistics. Such dedicated parcel expresses are run by railway zones when the demand between routes is high.

"What the smugglers generally do is move cigarettes from border regions and sell them in the local market at cheaper rates," a senior official said, adding that investigators are trying to identify both the source and intended recipients of the consignments.

Senior divisional security commissioner (RPF) Shreyans Chinchawade said intensified random inspections will continue. "Initially, we weren't much involved because the excise department was checking, but now with this new modus operandi, we'll keep random checks going... it's also about how they are bypassing security and putting false declarations. We will work in coordination with the customs, excise and civil police," he explained.

HC grants bail to radiologist in Pocso case

Bengaluru: The high court has granted bail to a radiologist from KR Pete in Mandya district who was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, following an inspection conducted by Lokayukta at various scanning centres on April 17, 2026.

The petitioner was arrested and arraigned as co-accused for his failure to comply with the mandatory duty of reporting the offence as provided under Section 19 of Pocso Act. The allegation against the petitioner is that a scanning procedure was conducted on a girl under the age of 18 at his centre. On May 8, a special court refused to grant him bail.

Challenging this, the petitioner argued that punishment for the offence under Section 19 is provided under Section 21, which stipulates six months' simple imprisonment with or without fine, and this is a bailable offence. He claimed that the offence under Section 19 cannot be equated with the other offences contemplated under Pocso Act.

Justice MGS Kamal, after perusing the materials on record, referred to an Orissa high court ruling holding that alleged non-compliance with Section 19 discloses a lesser offence for which the special court could not have refused bail to the petitioner-radiologist.

The judge directed the man's release on a bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties for the sum to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional court. TNN

BBA, BCA courses top draw in govt colleges

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Bengaluru: If admission trends in govt colleges are any indication, BCA and BBA courses are emerging as the top choices among students this year. In response to the rising demand, the commissionerate of collegiate education has decided to allow 26 govt first-grade colleges to introduce BBA and BCA programmes.

The colleges that sought to start new programmes are mainly from Dharwad and Kalaburagi regions. The department said steps will be taken to start the courses only after obtaining approval from All India Council of Technical Education.

Another 186 colleges will increase their intake for BA, BCom and BSc programmes, including BCA and BBA. For instance, Govt First Grade College in Raichur will get 270 more seats to increase its total intake to 300. SSA Govt First Grade College in Ballari has increased BCom seats by 100. Jamkhandi College has improved intake in two BA programmes, history and political science, by 100 each.

Many colleges have agreed to run evening shifts with the existing infrastructure to ensure a large number of students can be accommodated. "The principals are willing to conduct classes in two shifts as per the requirement in the few colleges that lack building, furniture and computer infrastructure," said the department of collegiate education in a proposal it initially sent to the govt.

"If students from rural areas can get admission in govt colleges for new courses that are in market demand at minimal cost, these courses will not only help the future of the students but will also increase the general admission ratio (GER) of higher education," the department stated.

The courses being introduced are in line with industry demands and will include apprenticeship-embedded learning programmes. At the same time, 458 programmes will be closed down for the 2026-27 academic year and intake will be reduced in 1,480 colleges. TOI reported earlier that more than 1,091 undergraduate and 170 postgraduate programmes had no intake last year. Minister for higher education MC Sudhakar said they would consider closing down some of those.

The programmes being closed are three-subject combinations, including history, political science, Kannada and sociology, among others. The number reduced ranges from 20 to 100 seats.

The collegiate department noted the failure to reduce intake will result in the university continuing to bear the burden of paying affiliation fee to AICTE. It will also affect the cumulative grade point average scores and thus the National Assessment and Accreditation Council grading.

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Delivery agent, 18, alleges assault by group after scooter-car collision

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Bengaluru: An 18-year-old delivery agent was allegedly brutally assaulted following a road-rage incident in Kacharakanahalli, east Bengaluru, on May 24, leaving him with a fractured shoulder, abdominal injuries and other wounds.

Pradish K from Pillanna Garden said he was heading to work on his scooter at 7.20am after refuelling when a speeding Maruti Suzuki allegedly rammed his vehicle from behind. The impact threw him off the scooter, leaving him semi-conscious.

Pradish alleged that instead of helping him, the car occupants — two women and three men — abused and assaulted him, blaming him for damaging their car. A woman allegedly beat him with slippers while others punched and kicked him. One man allegedly brought a sharp object from the car and stabbed him in the abdomen.

Another delivery agent alerted Pradish's family. He claimed the group prevented bystanders and relatives from taking him to hospital, insisting the damaged car be repaired first.

A woman, said to be in her mid-40s, allegedly claimed she was a traffic police officer and threatened those present, boasting of political and police connections.

The situation calmed only after one of Pradish's friends handed over his mobile phone as assurance. Pradish was then shifted to Dr BR Ambedkar Hospital and has since been discharged.

Police said a counter-complaint has been filed by the car occupants against Pradish and others. According to their complaint, Pradish's family members and friends gathered, abused the women using filthy language and threatened them. An officer said both complaints have been registered and CCTV footage is being examined to verify the claims.

Urban stress showing up on skin as body acne cases surge in Bengaluru

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

AI

HOW TO KEEP 'BACNE' AT BAY

- Maintain good hygiene and follow simple skincare routine
- Shower after workout or sweating
- Wear loose cotton clothing and avoid tight outfits
- Keep skin clean and dry
- Use non-comedogenic skincare products
- Avoid picking at acne to prevent scars and infections
- Seek medical help for severe or frequent breakouts
- Maintain balanced diet, manage stress and get adequate sleep

Bengaluru: The stressful pace of urban life is beginning to show its effects on skin health in more ways than one in the city. Beyond the usual complaints of eczema flare-up and hairfall, dermatologists are increasingly seeing cases of back acne, commonly called bacne, and body acne among adolescents and young adults.

While acne was once largely associated with teenagers undergoing hormonal changes, doctors say multiple lifestyle and environmental factors are now causing people in their 20s, 30s and even 40s to battle it. "Many people are now experiencing acne not only on their faces, but also on the back, chest, shoulders and upper arms," said Dr Sudheendra Udbalker, senior consultant, dermatology, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road.

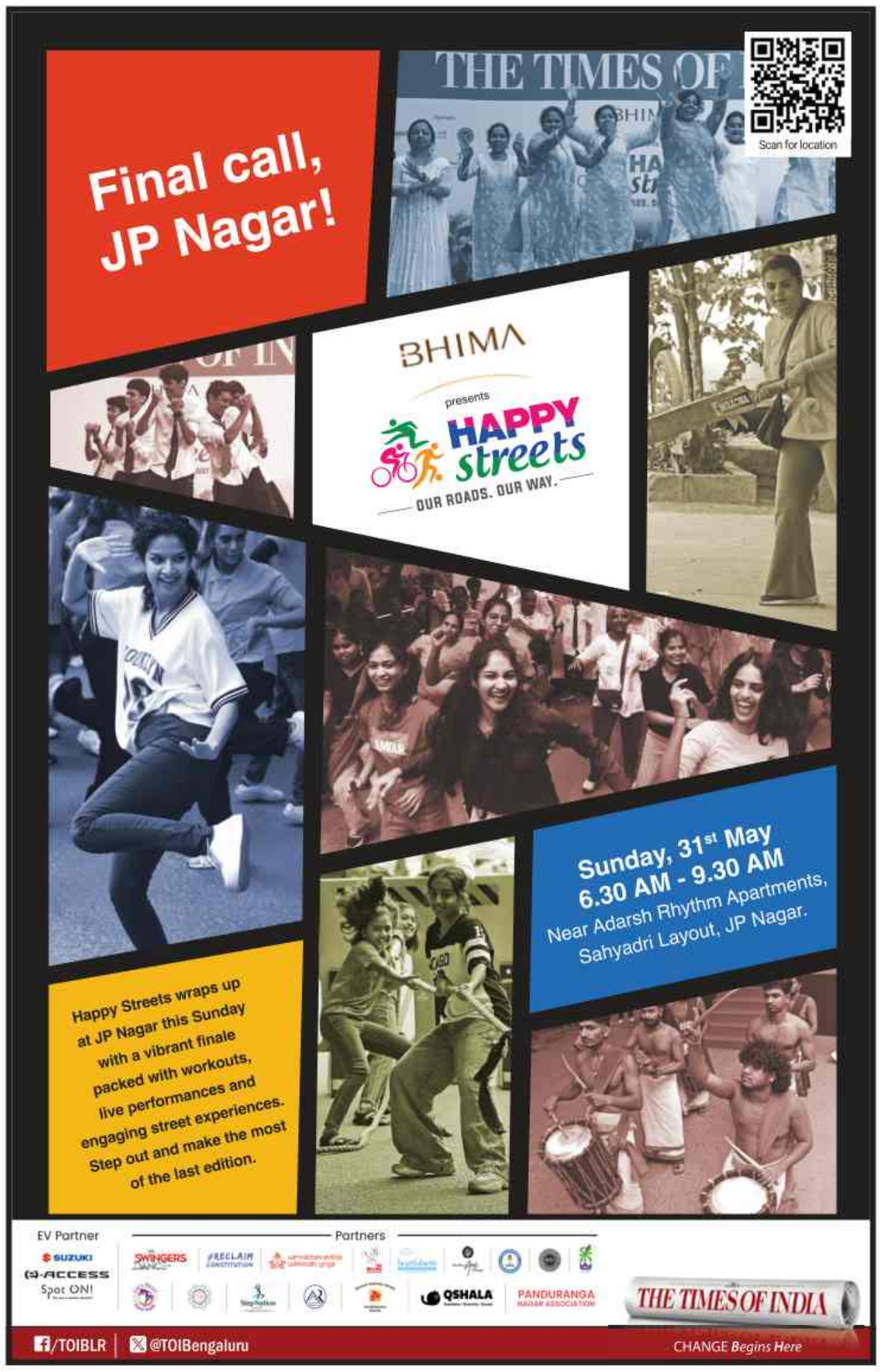
Doctors say body acne is often caused by a combination of excess oil production and fungal overgrowth on the skin. "This combination, which is definitely more common in summer, causes the fungus to grow and leads to something called folliculitis, which is inflammation of the hair follicle. It looks like acne," said Dr Shireen Furtado, senior consultant, medical & cosmetic dermatology, Aster CMI Hospital. Stress, she added, worsens the condition by increasing oil production.

Dermatologists also point to hormonal changes, diet, genetics, pollution, tight clothing and poor hygiene after workouts as major contributing factors. "In some cases, back and body acne can also be triggered by oil massages done in parlours, external skin treatments or diets that are high in fat and oily foods," said Dr Surendra VHH, dermatologist, Apollo Hospitals, Jayanagar. "Sweat, friction from tight clothing, bacterial growth and skin irritation can worsen it further," said Dr Sudheendra, adding that severe cases may lead to painful cystic acne, inflammation and acne marks, affecting both skin health and self-esteem.

Body acne has also given rise to beauty trends such as back facials and exfoliating scrubs, commonly offered at salons and skincare clinics. However, dermatologists remain divided on their effectiveness. "The skin on the back is almost 10 times thicker than skin elsewhere on the body. So superficial treatments like back facials or scrubs are not going to work for acne or the marks left behind by it. It needs medical treatment," said Dr Shireen.

Dr Sudheendra, however, said gentle exfoliation may help mild acne if done correctly, though aggressive scrubbing can worsen the condition. Doctors recommend seeking medical treatment before opting for cosmetic procedures. "We recommend salicylic acid-based cleansers, topical applications. In severe cases, oral antibiotics, peeling agents antibiotic creams and oral retinoids may also be prescribed."

If left untreated, doctors warn body acne can lead to pigmentation and scarring.



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Falling in trap, not love: Right swipe on dating app costs techie ₹89 lakh

Woman Convinced 43-Yr-Old To Invest For Their Future

Chaithanya.Swamy@timesofindia.com

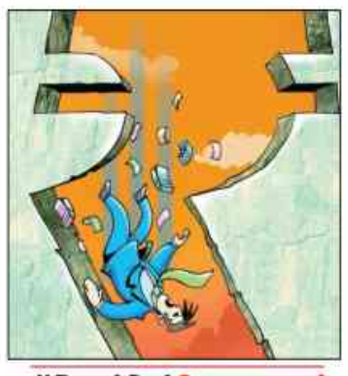
Bengaluru: Romance on an online dating app turned into a financial nightmare for a 43-year-old software engineer, who was allegedly cheated of nearly Rs 89 lakh in an elaborate investment fraud operated through WhatsApp and Telegram.

According to the complaint filed by Surya (name changed), a resident of BTM Layout, the fraud began after he came in contact with a woman identifying herself as Sakshi Shetty on Feb 14 through dating app Bumble.

Though her profile has since disappeared from the platform, the two had exchanged mobile numbers after texting for some time on the app. Soon, they began communicating regularly over WhatsApp, and via email; Sakshi used to contact him through sakshishetty1702@gmail.com.

According to Surya, they were regularly in touch between Feb 15 and May 9 through chats, voice calls, video calls, audio recordings, photographs and videos.

During this period, Sakshi allegedly gained his confidence by discussing marriage, future plans and a life together. Surya never met the woman in person, but trusted her after weeks of emotional and online bonding.



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Sakshi then introduced him to online investment platform called 'Pu Prime CS' and Telegram channel named 'BSYTNYDGS 2,' claiming that huge profits could be earned through Forex, oil, cryptocurrency, metal and contract for difference (CFD) trading.

She convinced Surya that the investments would help them for their future. The bank account details for deposits and withdrawals were allegedly shared through Telegram ID "@PuP_Pu_Prime_CS." Initially, small returns were credited to his account.

As part of the returns, the fraudsters transferred Rs 8,500 on March 10 from an account identified as 'Vishal R (Merchant)', followed by Rs 59,500 on March 21 from 'Hiral Pa (Merchant)'. On March 31, another Rs 5.4 lakh was transferred from 'Navjeevan Traders.'

Encouraged by the apparent profits and reassured by the woman's promises, the complainant continued investing larger sums in phases. She also persuaded him to withdraw existing investments and even take loans to invest larger sums for "higher returns."

Broken heart and empty wallet: Man loses ₹1.6cr to trading scam

Times News Network

Bengaluru: What began as an online romance on a dating application ended in financial fraud after a 32-year-old private firm employee lost over Rs 1.6 crore to fraudsters.

Gourav (name changed), who stays in a paying guest accommodation in Electronics City, said he came in contact with a woman identifying herself as "Riya Agarwal" on dating app TanTan on Feb 15. She gained his trust within three days by frequently interacting with him through emails, social media and video calls, and promising to become his life partner.

Soon, she persuaded him to invest in online trading platform called "Global Prime," claiming it would generate huge profits through forex and digital trading. Gourav was told to check websites named "globalprimeus-.com" and "m.globalprimejp.cc" and introduced to some "trading advisers".

He transferred over Rs 1.6 crore in 27 transactions between Feb 20 and May 7 through RTGS, IMPS, NEFT and digital payment applications to several bank accounts linked to different firms across the country.

When Gourav later attempted to withdraw the profits and invested amount, the fraudsters stopped responding on Telegram and WhatsApp.

But when he tried to withdraw cash, the fraudsters kept demanding more money, citing reasons such as income tax, processing fees and others. Surya eventually transferred a staggering Rs 88,76,975 before realising he had been duped.

A case has been registered at southeast cybercrime police station. An officer said efforts are on to freeze the bank accounts of fraudsters. It's an organised fraud using dating platforms to lure victims.

Homebuyers upset as Rera recovery cell plan shelved

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Bengaluru: A proposed cell to streamline recovery of dues in cases adjudicated by the state's Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Rera) has been dropped, disappointing homebuyers.

Instead, the govt has appointed a special deputy commissioner for Bengaluru Urban district to handle recovery of pending amounts.

Officials said discussions were held on forming a dedicated recovery committee, but the plan was shelved as such a body would lack legal powers to enforce collections. Under existing rules, recovery authority rests with the respective district deputy commissioners, while agencies can only issue recovery certificates for action. Officials said 2,394 recovery certificates have been filed so far, with 317 cases currently listed for recovery.

Earlier, the govt and Rera had proposed a dedicated recovery cell to enforce K-Rera orders. Announced in July 2025, the move came after complaints from buyers who had sought revenue recovery certificates (RRCs) against builders who failed to pay despite K-Rera orders.

Officials had noted that slow recovery often forced homebuyers to approach the high court for compensation. "There appears to be a legal and technical hurdle in setting up the cell," said MS Shankar, general secretary of the Forum for People's Collective Efforts. He said the issue was recently discussed with the housing secretary, during which it emerged that a special deputy commissioner has already been tasked with recovering Rera-issued revenue recovery certificates within eight weeks. A joint meeting involving the revenue department, housing department and K-Rera to finalise the modalities of the special DC's role, he said, could help address the issue. "The plan had been under consideration for some time and the officer was recently vested with powers."

According to FPCE data, as of Jan 23, 2,325 RRCs worth Rs 1,081.84 crore have been issued. Only 282 RRCs amounting to Rs 110.3 crore have been recovered so far, reflecting recovery rate of 8.2% (number) and 9.8% (value).

Homebuyers' associations have called for better coordination among govt departments overseeing the issue. "While Rera does not have direct recovery powers, there is a need for an empowered mechanism to monitor recovery by forwarding dues to revenue authorities. A specialised team, including Rera officials, would help streamline coordination and address homebuyers' woes," said Satish Mallya, president of the Bangalore Apartments' Federation.

"It's wise to bring revenue recovery services under the Sakala framework, ensuring time-bound disposal of RRC cases with accountability steps, including penalties for delays," said Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar of Karnataka Home Buyers Forum. He said authorities should also launch dedicated recovery drives and use available legal powers, including arresting defaulting promoters who fail to comply with RRC proceedings.

SPECIAL DC FOR RECOVERIES

To speed up recovery of dues, the revenue department appointed a special deputy commissioner for Bengaluru Urban district in April. Officials said the post was created due to the high volume of cases in the city. The special DC will oversee recovery proceedings, issuing notices, coordinating with departments and ensuring execution of recovery certificates. Authorities said Rs 7–8 crore has been recovered since April 2026.

Special DC Jayamadava said one challenge is that builders often obtain stay orders or transfer properties to relatives before proceedings begin. He said amendments have been proposed to allow authorities to trace and attach linked properties and accounts, strengthening enforcement powers.

WHAT IS RRC?

A revenue recovery certificate is issued by the regulatory body when a builder, promoter, allottee or real estate agent fails to comply with an order to pay compensation, interest or penalty to the homebuyer. Once issued, the amount mentioned in the RRC is treated as an arrear of land revenue, and the matter is forwarded to the district revenue authorities — usually the DC or tahsildar — for recovery.

JP Nagar gears up for grand finale on Sunday

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The final edition of The Times of India's Happy Streets at JP Nagar is all set to take place this Sunday, marking the conclusion of a vibrant community initiative that turned the streets near Adarsh Rhythm Apartment, Sahyadri Layout, into a lively hub of fitness, creativity and neighbourhood bonding.

The concluding edition promises an exciting line-up of wellness, music and performances, offering residents one final opportunity to come together and celebrate community spirit. The morning will begin with a meditation session by Heartfulness, followed by yoga and pranayama sessions conducted by Sarvebhavanthu Sukhinah Yoga.

Fitness lovers can join a Zumba session by Swingers Dance Inc, while NeeRav Arts Village will introduce participants to a traditional Mudgar workout session, bringing an interesting blend of heritage-inspired strength training practices to the streets.

Music and entertainment are also expected to take centre stage, with singing training sessions by From Mug to Mic and a lively performance by Mic and Melody. Audiences can look forward to dynamic dance showcases by Step Nation by Deeksha, Vijaya Cultural Academy and Let's Move Dance Studio.

Aryan Martial Arts will add action-packed flavour with a karate showcase. The event will also promote public awareness, with Alert NGO conducting CPR sessions to equip residents with essential life-saving skills. The event will conclude with a lucky draw by presenting sponsor Bhima Jewellers.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE, HAPPINESS

Pics: Muthu P, IANS

Members of Muslim community offer prayers on the occasion of Eid al-Adha (Bakrid) at Eidgah grounds, Chamarajpet, Thursday

Legal notice by husband isn't enough to enforce conjugal rights decree: HC

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Mere issuance of a legal notice by a husband does not amount to compliance with or enforcement of a decree for restitution of conjugal rights. The high court made this observation in a recent judgment while dismissing the petition filed by a man from Bantwal taluk, Dakshina Kannada district.

The couple got married in Jan 2017. However, the wife filed a petition seeking divorce, alleging cruelty. The husband filed a counterclaim, seeking restitution of conjugal rights.

The wife filed an application seeking interim maintenance, and the family court at Mangaluru awarded Rs 15,000 per month on Sept 15, 2020. Later, the application filed by the husband was favoured, and the divorce petition by the wife was dismissed.

The wife moved the family court seeking execution of the order directing the husband to pay interim maintenance. On Nov 21, 2024, a decree was passed in her favour. He challenged the same before high court, claiming the wife failed to join him in terms of the order passed by the family court and that he had issued a legal notice to her in this regard. He further claimed he paid Rs 6 lakh as arrears of maintenance.

However, Justice K Manmadha Rao noted that the husband failed to submit any acknowledgement for having paid Rs 6 lakh. The judge pointed out that the wife stated she received Rs 4.5 lakh only and that the husband did not pay for the period from Nov 2019 to Feb 2022 and also failed to take steps in pursuance of the restitution of conjugal rights.

"The obligation is clear and continues until cohabitation is resumed, the husband is required to pay maintenance. The contention of the petitioner that the respondent refused to join matrimonial life cannot, by itself, absolve him of the liability under the decree. If the petitioner was genuinely interested in enforcing restitution of conjugal rights, it was incumbent upon him to initiate appropriate execution proceedings for enforcement of that decree. Mere issuance of a legal notice does not amount to compliance with or enforcement of a decree for restitution of conjugal rights," Justice Rao observed. The husband has been told to clear the arrears of maintenance payable.

Man threatening residents with machete arrested

Bengaluru: A 42-year-old man was arrested after he allegedly roamed the streets with a long machete in Neelasandra, central Bengaluru, on May 26, threatening people and demanding money.

The accused, Syed Mustan, is a resident of MG Garden. According to the complaint filed by head constable Syed Moin Ulla, while patrolling, he and his colleague noticed Mustan carrying the machete. Mustan approached Mohammed Akram, 62, owner of a tea stall, and demanded cash. When the owner refused, Mustan waved the machete at him and threatened to kill him if he did not pay up. The cops overpowered the accused and snatched the weapon. TNN

'My 50 yrs in politics is an open book'

▶ Continued from page 1

Thanking the Congress leadership for giving him the opportunity to serve two terms as CM, Siddaramaiah said he never compromised on ideology or values during his political career. "I have never run after power or money. I never thought of accumulating wealth. My political career of 50 years is an open book," he said.

Siddaramaiah reiterated he had always maintained he would step down whenever directed by the party high command. Later in the evening, both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar left for New Delhi to meet Congress leadership.

According to party sources, discussions are expected on the election of the new CLP leader, cabinet composition and the future of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief's post, currently held by Shivakumar.

AICC functionaries in Delhi indicated that clarity on the transition and the structure of the new govt is likely within the next couple of days.

DK entered politics through National Students' Union of India in 1980s

▶ Continued from page 1

Born on May 15, 1962, in Doddalahalli village of Kanakapura taluk, Shivakumar entered politics through National Students' Union of India in 1980s. Congress fielded him against Deve Gowda from Sathanur constituency in 1985 assembly elections. Though he lost, he was elected zilla panchayat member from Sathanur in 1987. He entered the assembly in 1989 from Sathanur and retained the seat for four consecutive terms.

Following constituency reorganisation, he moved to Kanakapura, where he emerged one of Congress party's most influential leaders in Karnataka.

With the Congress high command appearing to back him as Siddaramaiah's successor, Shivakumar now stands on the verge of adding another chapter to the district's long political legacy.

No tests, please! Study tour to Japan teaches PU students values, compassion, civic sense

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@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: When 56 Indian students visited Shibura Institute of Technology at Kashiwa, they were taken aback at what they saw at the high school in Japan.

Most children were playing, others learning music, some sewing and many cooking. There were no tests, no maths and no emphasis on English language. The school was more focused on inculcating civic responsibilities, ethics, compassion and grit. This, many Indian students said, was one of their biggest takeaways from the four-day trip to Japan.

Four govt PU college students from Karnataka are part of the Indian delegation visiting Tokyo as part of Sakura Science High School Programme (SSHP).

Pics: TOI

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME: Four PU college students are among the Indian delegation visiting Tokyo as part of the Sakura Science High School Programme from May 24 to 30

"I always wanted to become a doctor. I was studying only for grades. But the Japanese taught me why we actually need to study. The progress in technology is due to curiosity, which is the core principle of getting education there. So as much as I become a doctor, I also want to get involved in research now

Namratha Bai | ADARSHA GOVT PU COLLEGE, MYSURU

"I'm impressed by Tsucuba Space Centre visit and the lecture by physicist Takaaki Kajita. I want to be an Isro scientist. I got to see a real rocket, a space mission control room and their interaction with astronauts in the space station

Rohith DS | GOVT PU COLLEGE, HASSAN

"We are amazed at the civic sense of the Japanese. The people there always have a smile on their face. I am also amazed at the big playgrounds and sports facilities that their schools have

Akash Uday Harikant | HK BENNE GOVT PU COLLEGE, UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT

"The entire country is clean. We can't find a piece of plastic there. I am also inspired by their kindness, empathy and sense of responsibility

Ashwitha KH | GOVT PU COLLEGE, CHIKKAMAGALURU

SSHP invites youth from 14 countries to Japan for a week, and they participate in the exchange programmes specially coordinated by Japan Science and Technology Agency. Students participate in special classes taught by leading scientists, including Nobel laureates, visit prominent Japanese universities and research institutes, engage in social activities with Japanese high school students and get a feel of Japanese culture.

The programme is being held from May 24 to 30. Karnataka selected four students, who are SSLC toppers in their districts. The four students are Akash Uday Harikant, HK Benne Govt PU College, Kumta, Uttar Kannada district; Ashwitha KH, Govt PU College, Sringeri, Chikkamagaluru; Namratha Bai, Adarsha Govt PU College, KR Nagar, Mysuru; and Rohith DS, Govt PU College, Arasikere Town, Hassan.

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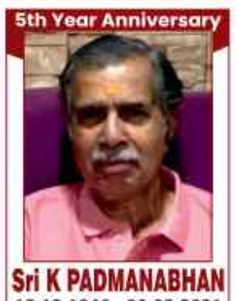
11th Death Anniversary
29th May 2026
In loving memory of

Dr.V.J.Arunkumar
1953 - 2015
Eleven years have passed since you left us. But your memories remain in our hearts every single day.
You are deeply missed and lovingly remembered.
Nirupa and Durga

OBITUARY
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
5th Year Anniversary



Sri K PADMANABHAN
15.12.1946 - 29.05.2021
My heart still can't accept that you are not with us anymore. You were my strength. In this last five years, there's not a single day that we didn't miss you.
Fondly Remembered by:
Santha Padmanabhan, Raakesh Nair, Pranita R Nair & Navya Nair.

11th Death Anniversary

Smt. USHA SURENDRANATH
DOB: 08-01-1953
DOD: 29-05-2015
Fondly Remembered by:
Dr. R. Ramaiah & Family
9880638897
9880295743

OBITUARY
REMEMBRANCES
IN MEMORY OF

Hari Krishnamurthy
23.04.1961 - 29.05.2021
You Will Always Be Remembered by
Chandrashekar K And Family.

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REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

In loving memory of
HARI KRISHNAMURTHY
23/04/1961 - 29/05/2021
You will forever live in our hearts and memories.
Remembered by: Family & friends.

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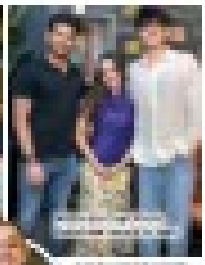
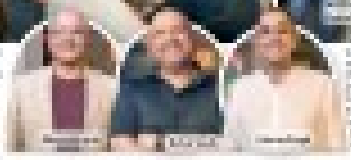
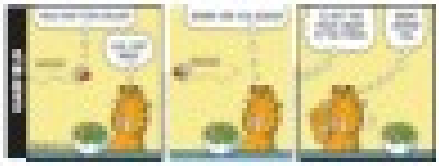
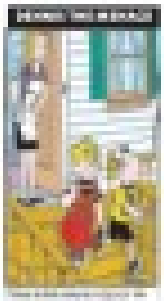
Seasonal changes often increase exposure to infections: Experts

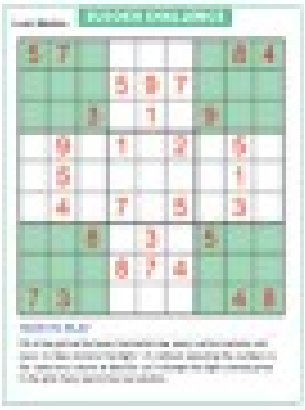
Bengaluru's nightlife crowd has a new hangout spot in Kanamangala

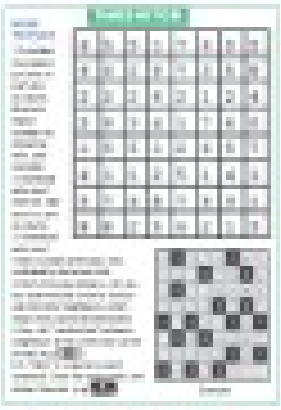


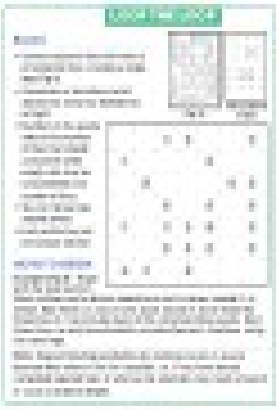


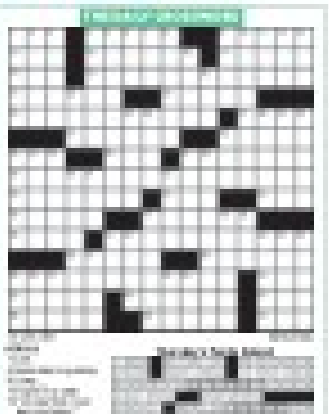


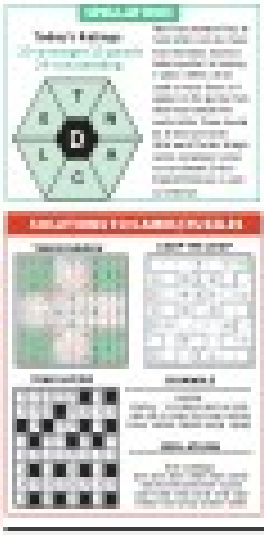












TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026

TAMIL NADU CM VIJAY CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT TO DELHI, SKIPS MEETING CONGRESS LEADERS

UNION MINISTER CHOUHAN RELEASES 1ST INSTALMENT OF OVER ₹10,000 CR UNDER PMAY-G FOR 12 STATES

HACK OF THE DAY — **SET A DIGITAL LEGACY PLAN FOR YOUR GOOGLE ACCOUNT**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps family access selected Google data if you're inactive for a while or something unexpected happens

WHAT TO DO: Use Google's Inactive Account Manager to decide who should be notified and what data can be shared

STEPS:

1. **Visit** Google Account settings
2. **Open** Data & privacy and look for Inactive Account Manager or digital legacy settings
3. **Choose** how long Google should wait before treating the account as inactive
4. **Add** trusted contacts who should be notified
5. **Select** which data, if any, those contacts can receive

NOTE: This is especially important if Gmail, Drive, or Photos contain family, biz or financial records

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

BJP MLA to tie knot at govt mass marriage ceremony in Ch'garh

In a political landscape where lavish weddings often dominate headlines, Chhattisgarh BJP MLA Dipesh Sahu is set to get hitched at a govt-sponsored mass marriage ceremony on May 31. The first-time legislator will swap vows alongside 23 other couples under Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana in Bemetara, his constituency. The 35-year-old said he wanted to send out a message of simplicity, especially when PM Narendra Modi called for austerity measures. The unusual decision has sparked debate across the region, with supporters calling it a rarity in public life. The ceremony is expected to turn into a major event with chief minister Vishnu Deo Sai, assembly Speaker Raman Singh, deputy CMs Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma, and Union minister Tokhan Sahu among a host of dignitaries expected to attend.
Traditionally, such govt-organised mass weddings cater to underprivileged who struggle to bear wedding expenses. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Micron's $10bn-a-day run to $1tn

A year ago, chipmaker Micron was valued at about $107 billion. On Tuesday, its market value crossed $1 trillion, making it the 12th US company to enter the trillion-dollar club. It also set a speed record, doubling from $500 billion to $1 trillion in just 48 days; Nvidia took 490 days to make the same leap

80% rise in Micron's share price in **one month**

19% jump in **one day**, on May 26

$1.01tn market value on Tuesday

48 days to double from $500bn to $1tn

12th US company to cross $1tn

3rd US trillion-dollar company with an Indian-origin CEO, **Sanjay Mehrotra**, who also co-founded SanDisk

Source: WSJ, LSEG

196 days, 7 countries, 23 ports: Cocaine ship's Brazil-India journey

Ashish.Chauhan
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: The seas might as well have parted as 115kg of cocaine sat concealed inside the motor room of a cargo vessel that sailed through 23 ports across seven countries for 196 days.

MV Europe cleared anchorages in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Panama, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and the US. Not once, according to Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) officers, did any enforcement agency even get a sniff of the contraband.

That is, until the ship reached Mundra.

The seizure from MV Europe earlier this week, valued at Rs 1,150 crore, is India's biggest maritime anti-narcotics haul. Even more astonishing is the route pieced together by ATS investigators and the brazenness with which the contraband was being moved.

Senior ATS officers said they received the first intelligence inputs on the consignment in May last year, when the narcotics were allegedly being packed in preparation for dispatch through international sea routes. Shipping records accessed by ATS show the vessel's first documented stop was at Sao Vicente in Brazil on Nov 11, 2025.

"We are puzzled how the cocaine, originating in Brazil, remained concealed inside the vessel's motor room for months as the ship moved through multiple jurisdictions before arriving in Indian waters," a senior ATS officer said.

Coast Guard and Gujarat ATS retrieved 115 packets of cocaine from the sea

After it set sail, the vessel moved through Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay before transiting the Panama Canal. It headed for the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and several ports along the US eastern seaboard. ATS officials said the ship repeatedly revisited certain ports and anchorage points, racking up 40 recorded stops during the voyage.

MV Europe eventually turned towards south Asia. It arrived at Jawaharlal Nehru Port near Mumbai on May 19, proceeded to Pakistan's Port Qasim on May 22 and reached Mundra on May 26.

At Mundra, the ship waited nearly two days for another vessel that was supposed to collect the contraband. Continuous surveillance by the Coast Guard and ATS disrupted the planned transfer.

ATS said the cocaine was meant to be shifted to a boat in the outer anchorage before being transported inland. Officers said they suspect India was not necessarily the destination of the entire consignment. "It is an old modus operandi of the drug mafia. The contraband is stocked in a particular country and later distributed through air cargo in small packets to other countries," an ATS officer said.

No case if you exit voluntarily, Shah tells Bangladesh illegals

'Bengal Govt Will Then Help You Return'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gandhinagar: BJP govt in Bengal would not press charges against Bangladeshis living illegally in the state if they chose to return voluntarily, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Thursday, while reiterating the Centre's commitment to detect, detain and deport illegal immigrants from the country.

"Today, newspapers are saying that illegal immigrants are voluntarily returning. Bengal govt has made detention centres. But we all want that those who entered illegally go back voluntarily. If they do, state govt will not file any cases against them. Instead, it will help them return," Shah said, while accusing the previous Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress govt of allowing unchecked infiltration into West Bengal.

IANS

Shah greets locals at the inauguration of a gram panchayat building in Kalol

"Hopefully, most will leave before the campaign to identify infiltrators begins. Our govt is resolved to remove every infiltrator from the country," Shah said during a public event at Sonipur in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district.

Shah said BJP had promised during its assembly election campaign in West Bengal that the India-Bangladesh border would be fenced if people voted the party to office.

Congratulating Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari, Shah said the new state govt had handed over 600 hectares of land to BSF for border fencing within seven days of assuming office. He added 121 hectares in the strategically important Siliguri Corridor — or 'Chicken's Neck' in north Bengal that links the North-East with the rest of India — had also been transferred to Union govt.

Shah said PM Narendra Modi had constituted a high-powered committee to examine the reasons behind "unnatural demographic changes". The panel would submit its report within a year.

"The committee will study the circumstances and suggest solutions, including whether there is a need for a legal framework to do away with illegal immigrants," Shah said.

The home minister said Modi had expanded Gujarat's development model across India over the past 12 years and claimed BJP governed nearly 80% of the country's geographical area. "From Gangasagar in Uttarakhand to Gangasagar in Bengal, BJP holds sway across the Ganga belt," he said.

Retired IAS officer (80) dies in Delhi fire

New Delhi: An 80-year-old retired IAS officer lost his life while his son had to be hospitalised after a fire broke out following an AC blast on the ground floor of their three-storey residence in south Delhi's Hauz Khas Enclave on Wednesday.

Dhanendra Kumar, who served as India's executive director at the World Bank board in Washington DC, succumbed to severe smoke inhalation early on Thursday morning while undergoing emergency treatment at AIIMS Trauma Centre. His son was also rushed to the hospital. He is under medical supervision. Police received an emergency call regarding the blaze at 11.18 pm. Cops and Delhi Fire Service responded immediately to the crisis. Two fire tenders were dispatched under the command of station officer Mukul Bharadwaj. Preliminary findings indicate that the blaze was triggered by a sudden, powerful blast inside the indoor unit of an AC. TNN

Rly clears weekly direct train between B'luru and U'khand

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Uttarakhand will soon be connected to Karnataka by a direct train from Bengaluru. The railway ministry has officially notified the KSR Bengaluru-Lal Kuan Express, which will become one of the longest-running train routes, covering 2,634 km from the city.

Till date, Uttarakhand did not have a regular direct train from Bengaluru. However, two weekly specials to Lal Kuan (near Haldwani) and Rishikesh operated earlier. According to the Railway Board notification, the decision comes following the demand generated for the temporary special.

Though the launch date is yet to be finalised, the board has requested the railway zones to inaugurate the commercial service from an early convenient date. Once flagged off, the train will run weekly, starting from KSR Bengaluru on Tuesday and will reach its destination after two days, taking close to 50 hours to complete the journey. As per the tentative timetable, the train will depart from KSR at 7.15 am and reach Lal Kuan by 9.05 am Thursday. The return service from Lal Kuan on Saturdays will reach Bengaluru on Monday.

Passengers say that the introduction of this new train will majorly benefit the huge travel demand towards the western parts of Uttar Pradesh. Catering to the migrant working population in Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the introduction could offer relief to the huge crowd along the route.

Lal Kuan, a town in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand, is also close to Uttar Pradesh. "I think those living in western Uttar Pradesh, especially in Bareilly, Hathras and Mathura, could be the beneficiaries of the train. Connecting Kumaon or Rohilkhand regions of Uttarakhand along with western Uttar Pradesh to the South is important, with the assembly elections expected in both the states next year," said Ansuman Sathapathy, a regular rail traveller.

Bid to destroy 'MGR legacy': AIADMK on TVK induction push

Chennai: In the wake of a steady stream of AIADMK functionaries and cadres joining TVK, an "overwhelmed" PWD minister Aadhav Arjuna Thursday said grassroots workers of the party now viewed TVK as the "true AIADMK".

The remarks came after scores of AIADMK functionaries, led by former ministers and MLAs, were inducted into TVK at its headquarters in Panaiyur on Chennai's outskirts. Among the prominent faces to join were ex-minister V N Natarajan, and former DGP and MLA R Nataraj.

Arjuna claimed "nearly 90% of AIADMK cadres are now ready to join CM vijay-led TVK", and called for sustained outreach, while TVK general secretary N Anand assured the new members that "everyone will treated with respect and given suitable posts". AIADMK leaders alleged that large sums were paid to enable MLA defections and accused TVK of trying to hijack the MGR–Jayalalithaa legacy. TNN

Pradhan defends CBSE's new 'On-Screen Marking' system

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday defended CBSE's newly introduced 'On-Screen Marking (OSM)' system as a "progressive instrument" aimed at bringing greater transparency and accountability to the evaluation process, even as he took responsibility for glitches in the evaluation mechanism that have left students and parents worried.

"I take responsibility. It will be fixed, a solution will be found. We are all working on that task," he said after chairing a high-level review meeting at the CBSE headquarters. He assured students that all genuine grievances would be addressed during the ongoing re-evaluation exercise. His remarks come amid constant attacks from opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, and mounting complaints over blurred scanned answer sheets, alleged unchecked responses, payment failures and repeated technical glitches on the CBSE post-result services portal following declaration of class XII board examination results.

It also came on a day when his colleague, commerce minister Piyush Goyal came forward to strongly rebut Rahul's corruption charge by pointing out that the company Coempt Eduteck Pvt Limited which owns OMS has also provided evaluation solutions to educational institutions in Congress-run Karnataka and Telangana. "Rahul Gandhi suffers from chronic political amnesia. He has done it again... chosen propaganda over facts, theatrics over truth."

On X, Goyal listed the institutions in the two southern states — Bengaluru City University, Dharwad-based Karnataka University, Maharshi Valmiki Univerisity in Karnataka, and Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences and State Health University in Telangana. "If this company is 'tainted', will he accuse Congress CMs of Telangana and Karnataka of collusion?, he asked.

UNIVERSITY BDT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

DAVANAGERE - 577 004, KARNATAKA

A Constituent College of Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi.

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1951-2026

DATE: 29TH AND 30TH MAY 2026

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Chief Guests

Shri C.P. Radha Krishnan
Hon'ble Vice President of India

Shri. Thaawarchand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka and Chancellor of the University

Hosts

Dr. S.Vidyashankar
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, VTU, Belagavi

Dr. Prasad B. Rampure
Registrar, VTU, Belagavi

Prof. Ujwal U.J
Registrar (Evaluation), VTU, Belagavi

Dr. Prashantha Nayaka. G
Finance Officer, VTU, Belagavi

Dr. D.P.Nagarajappa
Principal, UBDTCE, Davanagere

Date: Friday, 29th May 2026 | Time: 11.00AM onwards

Venue: University BDT College of Engineering, Davangere

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Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited

9rd floor, E & F Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009

Tele: 080-23118888, **Website:** https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in **e-mail:** rgrhclgmtech@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification

Dated : 27.05.2026

(Through kpp portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through kpp portal from the eligible contractors.

Last date of submission of bid is Date: 12.06.2026
Details of Work as below

Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Sasvehalli, Honnalli Taluk, Davanagere District - Package – 5 **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT97**	338.15	5.07
2	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Santhebennur, Channagiri Taluk, Davangere District (Extension work) Package - 6B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT98**	442.55	6.63
3	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building In G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Savanur Place, Savanur Taluk of Haveri District - Package - 7G **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT99**	335.92	5.04
4	Construction of KPS Model Urdu School (Extension of School Building in G plus 1 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department in Nagendramatti Place, Haveri Taluk of Haveri District Package - 7H **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT100**	262.86	3.94
5	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Darga Mohalla, Kolar District (Extension Work) Package - 10B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT101**	283.27	4.24
6	Construction of KPS School (School Building at G plus 3 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Rehmathnagar, Kolar District (Extension Work) - Package – 9 **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT102**	431.57	6.47
7	Construction of KPS School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Alnavar, Dharwad District (Extension Work) - Package - 6A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT103**	384.49	5.76
8	Construction of KPS School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Anandnagar, Dharwad District (Extension Work) - Package - 6B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT104**	384.49	5.76
9	Construction of KPS School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at TCW, Dharwad District (Extension Work) - Package - 6C **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT105**	354.67	5.32
10	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Chandrabad Road, Raichur Town, Raichur District (Extension) - Package - 14A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT106**	397.80	5.97
11	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Munirabad Town, Koppal District (Extension) Package - 11A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT107**	414.30	6.21
12	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Karatagi Town, Koppal District (Extension) - Package - 11C **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT108**	397.83	5.97
13	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Tavarageri, Kushtagi Taluk, Koppal District (Extension) - Package - 11F **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT109**	292.05	4.38
14	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Yelburga Town, Koppal District (Extension) - Package - 11D **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT110**	397.83	5.97
15	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Rajendra Nagar, Mysuru District (Extension Work) - Package - 13B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT111**	400.50	6.00
16	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Hunsur, Mysuru District (Extension Work) Package - 13A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT112**	450.40	6.75
17	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Maski Town Raichur District. (New Work) Package – 9 **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT113**	498.25	7.47
18	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Salagunda, Sindhanur Taluk Raichur District. (Extension) Package - 14E **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT114**	397.80	5.97
19	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Kanakagiri Town, Koppal District (Extension) Package - 11B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT115**	397.83	5.97
20	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Singapura, Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur District. (Extension Work) Package - 14D **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT116**	397.80	5.97
21	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Gabbur, Devadurga Taluk of Raichur District (Extension Work) - Package - 14C **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT117**	414.29	6.21
22	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Gafahar Khan Mohalla, Chintamani Road, Srinivaspura Taluk, Kolar District (Extension Work) Package - 10A **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT118**	450.40	6.75
23	Construction of KPS Model Moulana Azad School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Siddalingeshwara Nagar, Gadag District (Extension Work) Package – 7 **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT119**	292.05	4.38
24	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School (School Building at G plus 2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) for Minority Department at Bairoonquilla, Raichur Town of Raichur District (Extension Work) Package - 14B **(Fixed Price No Variation) Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT120**	381.32	5.72

further information visit : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/880/AKAR/2026-27 General Manager (S D)

HC to hear Cockroach Janta Party's plea today

New Delhi: Delhi HC will hear Friday a petition by Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke against blocking of the satirical digital outfit's social media account on X.

The petition argues that CJP's account has been arbitrarily suspended by govt citing national security concerns. It alleges that CJP's Instagram, website, and backup social media handles were taken down as part of a crackdown on the movement. TNN

30001/29/2627

DIRECTORATE OF MINES & GEOLOGY
STEEL AND MINES DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF ODISHA
BHUBANESWAR

Heads of Department Building, Unit-V, Pin-751001
Tel No.: 0674-2391537, Fax No.: 0674-2391684
Email ID: directormines1@orissaminerals.gov.in

Date: May 29, 2026

Notice Inviting Tender

"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Iron Ore, Bauxite, Aluminous Laterite, Limestone and Manganese Mineral and for grant of Composite Licence for Bauxite Mineral"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10 (B) and Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Odisha has identified:

a) 8 mineral blocks (2 blocks of Bauxite, 1 Iron Ore, 1 Iron Ore & Aluminous Laterite, 2 blocks of Iron Ore & Manganese, 1 block of Manganese & Dolomite, and 1 block of Limestone) for Electronic Auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of ***Mining Lease.***

b) 3 mineral blocks of Bauxite for Electronic Auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of ***Composite Licence.***

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (**https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/**).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited.

The block specific Tender documents are available for purchase on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited from Monday, June 01, 2026. Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of a tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is Monday, July 06, 2026 and the last date for submission of the bid is Monday, July 13, 2026 on or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time). The Price of Tender Document is exclusive of applicable GST. GST is payable under the Reverse Charge Mechanism. All blocks are put up for auction as virgin blocks.

List of Mineral Blocks for Auction

Sr. No	Name of Block	District	Mineral	ML/ CL	Price of Tender Document
1.	Karlapat Bauxite Block	Kalahandi	Bauxite	ML	5,00,000
2.	Nunapaimali Bauxite Block	Rayagada	Bauxite	ML	5,00,000
3.	Patamunda - B Manganese & Iron Ore Block	Sundargarh	Manganese & Iron Ore	ML	5,00,000
4.	Kendudihi-Parulipada Manganese & Dolomite Block	Kendujhar	Manganese, & Dolomite	ML	5,00,000
5.	Jaldihi Tantigram Iron Ore & Aluminous Laterite Block	Sundargarh	Iron Ore & Aluminous Laterite	ML	5,00,000
6.	Gadadharpur Iron Ore Block	Kendujhar	Iron Ore	ML	5,00,000
7.	Barpada South Iron & Manganese Ore Block	Sundargarh	Iron Ore & Manganese	ML	5,00,000
8.	Behera Banjipali Limestone Block	Bargarh	Limestone	ML	2,00,000
9.	Tikirimali-Budharajamali Bauxite Block	Rayagada	Bauxite	CL	5,00,000
10.	Tikriguda-Maliguda Bauxite Block	Rayagada	Bauxite	CL	5,00,000
11.	Nangalmarhimali Bauxite Block	Rayagada	Bauxite	CL	5,00,000

Sd/-
Director of Mines & Geology, Odisha

OIPR-30001/30028/1/26-27/0001

Malayalees worldwide, from students to businessmen, pooled funds to save Rahim

PTI

BACK HOME: Abdul Rahim is welcomed by relatives and well-wishers in Kozhikode

▶Continued from page 1

An overwhelmed Rahim was unable to hold back tears as he thanked "each and every one who made this possible". At Kuttampuzha, his mother Fathima anxiously awaited his arrival, and rushed out to embrace him while neighbours, relatives and well-wishers crowded around the family home. Fathima said she had prayed for this moment for the past 20 years.

Rahim had travelled to Saudi Arabia at the age of 26, but his life took a tragic turn in Nov 2006 within weeks of reaching Riyadh. He was assigned to care for the differently-abled son of a Saudi family. The boy died when, during a car journey, the tube of his life-support system got disconnected after Rahim's hand reportedly touched it.

Rahim was arrested in Dec 2006 and awarded the death penalty by a Saudi court in 2012. In 2024, a massive fundraising effort was launched by Abdul Rahim Legal Aid Committee, which saw Malayalees across the globe — from daily wagers and expatriates to students and businessmen — contribute to raise an astonishing Rs 47 crore to save the man they knew only through his story. In July 2024, a Saudi court revoked Rahim's death penalty after the boy's family agreed to pardon him in exchange for Rs 34 crore. However, he was ordered to complete a 20-year prison sentence.

The jail term ended on May 19, paving the way for an Eid reunion with his family.

SC points out lapses in safe custody of articles and forensic samples

▶Continued from page 1

SC pointed out glaring deficiencies with regard to seizure, sealing, safe custody of articles and forensic samples in the case. "The prosecution has miserably failed to lead cogent and reliable evidence establishing an unbroken chain of custody of the seized articles from the stage of their recovery till their examination at the FSL."

Referring to prosecution claim that it had recovered a torn shirt pocket from the place of occurrence which matched the shirt purportedly worn by Mehtab (who cannot engage in sexual intercourse), the court said, "We are of the considered view that the alleged recovery and matching of the shirt pocket is nothing but a padded and created circumstance introduced by the investigating agency in an attempt to lend support to the prosecution case. The forensic evidence, rather than lending assurance to the prosecution version, materially undermines the theory sought to be projected by the investigating agency," the court said.

BAGALKOT UNIVERSITY

(State Public University of Govt. of Karanataka)
Mudhol Road, Jamkhandi - 587 301,
Dist : Bagalkote, Phone : 08353 - 295123,
OFFICE OF REGISTRAR,
E-mail: bgkujkd@gmail.com Website: https://bgku.karnataka.gov.in

No. : B.G.K.U.J./RO/2026-27/200 Date : 27-05-2026

PRESS NOTE

Short Term Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement)

Registrar, Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi invites Tender through E-procurement **for 25 Laptop for SC & ST Students of Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi from 29-05-2026.**

Desired Eligible Suppliers / Agency may apply before 06-06-2026 by 5.00 p.m. through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

For further information kindly visit **University Website : http://bgku.karnataka.gov.in** or the Estate office at University.

Sd/- Registrar,
DIPR/Bagalkot/66/Manipal/2026-27 Bagalkot University, Jamkhandi.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of The Chief Engineer (Design & QA),
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore - 560009

No. BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/183/2026-27 Date: 26.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Call-2)

(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the work of **Sinking of 6.5 inch dia new borewell with necessary accessories at various locations of Mahadevapura constituency (110 villages) coming under AEE(BW&PS)-2-2 Sub division.**

Amount Put to Tender : **Rs. 398.21 lakhs**
EMD Amount : **Rs. 5,97,500/-**

The Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **09.06.2026 upto 16.00 hrs.** The Technical bids will be opened on: **10.06.2026 at 16.00 hrs**. The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/860/Zen/2026-27 Chief Engineer (Design & QA)

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052
Ph.No.: 080-22264021-25

No.: MSIL/HO/002/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Short-Term E-Tender Notification

(Through e-portal) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL) invites e-tenders from **Government of India Undertaking Insurance Companies only** for providing insurance coverage to the movable and immovable properties of the Company for the Financial Year 2026-27. The last date for submission of tender **is on 05.06.2026 at 4:00 PM.**

The details can be downloaded from the e-portal, Government of Karnataka at: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

For MYSORE SALES INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Place: Bengaluru Sd/-
Date: 27.05.2026 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES

Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/EW/COE_CA Foundation/CR-02/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities For the **academic year 2026-27, in the Pre-University Colleges functioning under the Directorate of Minorities, in order to provide CA Foundation coaching and other training programs.** Interested & eligible bidders/Institutes can apply through e-Procurement Portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**29.05.2026**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 900.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.13,50,000/-**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**04.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**16.06.2026 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**18.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**25.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.** (Tentative)
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902 080-22535912.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
DIPR/CP/878/MAA/2026-27 **Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru**

34001/258/2627

E-mail ID : cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
Tel. (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No.B-IV-H-(ALMC)-02/2026 No. 18165 Dt. 25th May, 2026

Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-II-11/2026-27

1. The Chief Engineer, Buildings-II (I/c), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Works Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only.
2. Nature of work : Fire Fighting System (Hydrant, Sprinkler, Alarm, PA System) to 250 Bedded Main Building at SLN MCH, Koraput.
3. No. of work : 01 No.
4. Bid Cost. : Rs. 10,000/-
5. Class of Contractor : Specialized agency MOU with electrical contractor having valid MV/HT or above license from ELBO.
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt. 01.06.2026 to 17:00 hours of dt. 16.06.2026.
7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 17.06.2026 at 11:30 AM.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-II (I/c)
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR - 34001/34117/1/26-27/0021

13001/669/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
P.H. CIRCLE, NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK-753004

Phone : 0671-2440841, E-mail: sephctc@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Invitation For Bids (IFB) No.ACEPHCTC-01/2026-27 Dtd.22.05.2026

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimated cost (Approx)
1.	Replacement of Old VT Pumps & Centrifugal Pumps at WTP, Intake Well & Other UGR site in Kendrapara Municipality.	Rs. 155.87 lakh

1. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : 11.00 Hrs. of dt. 04.06.2026 to 17.30 Hrs. of dt. 18.06.2026.
2. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal : 18.06.2026 upto 17.30 Hrs.
3. Date & time of opening of bids : 19.06.2026 at 12.30 Hrs.
4. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : The Additional Chief Engineer, P.H. Circle, Nayabazar, Cuttack-753004, Odisha, Ph.(0671)2440841, email : **sephctc@gmail.com**

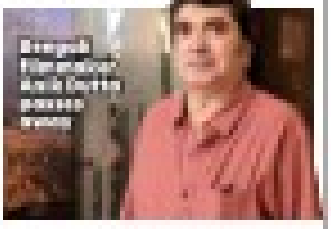
Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Addl. Chief Engineer
P.H. Circle, Cuttack

OIPR - 13001/13029/1/26-27/0001

UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Cynthia addresses memes on Wicked promotion, friendship with Ariana

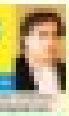


Stan Lee lives on through AI deal

When you look good, you feel confident, says Karthik on his fitness transformation

Eva Longoria reveals she's never watched Desperate Housewives

'We fully missed the character'



The hills are full. Please turn back

POV

No chill in the hills

Bank error, not fraud: SBI directed to refund ₹3.6L pension recovery

New Delhi: Delhi HC has ordered SBI to refund payment deducted from a widow drawing a family pension after noting that an alleged excess payment was earlier deposited entirely due to errors in processing of pension and not because of any misrepresentation or concealment on her part.

Justice Sanjeev Narula allowed the plea filed by one Indra and directed the bank to refund the amount already deducted from her family pension along with 6% annual interest, while also restraining the bank from making any further recoveries.

The petitioner's husband, a govt employee, died in service in 2003. After that, a family pension was sanctioned in favour of the petitioner through a pension payment order issued by Delhi govt and disbursed through an SBI branch. However, in one such payout, the woman noticed a sharp reduction in her monthly pension and was informed that an excess pension amounting to over Rs 2.5 lakh had allegedly been paid due to a wrong "enhance date" in the pension records.

SBI later recalculated the alleged excess amount at Rs 3.6 lakh and began monthly deductions from her pension. Distraught, she challenged the recovery, arguing she had neither furnished false information nor played any role in the alleged overpayment and that the deductions had been initiated unilaterally without prior notice. HC agreed and said, "There's nothing on record to suggest that the petitioner knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that she was receiving amounts beyond her entitlement." It faulted SBI for recovery without furnishing the details of the alleged overpayment or the proposed mode of recovery to the petitioner. TNN

Reliance
Industries Limited
Growth is Life

Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021
Phone: +91-22-3555 5000 • Fax: +91-22-2204 2268 • E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com
CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

NOTICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY
FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (POST-IPO) AND INFORMATION ON E-VOTING

Notice calling the Forty-ninth Annual General Meeting (Post-IPO) (**"AGM"**) of the Company, scheduled to be held in compliance with applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, through Video Conferencing (**"VC"**) / Other Audio Visual Means (**"OAVM"**) on **Friday, June 19, 2026 at 2:00 P.M. (IST)**, and the standalone and consolidated audited financial statement for the financial year 2025-26, along with Board's Report, Auditors' Report and other documents required to be attached thereto, have been sent on **Thursday, May 28, 2026**, electronically, to the members of the Company. Further, a letter providing the web-link, including the exact path, where Annual Report and the notice of the AGM for the financial year 2025-26 is available, is being sent to those members whose e-mail address is not registered with the Company / KFin Technologies Limited (**"KFinTech"**), Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent / Depository Participant(s) / Depositories. The Notice of AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2025-26 are available on the Company's website at **www.ril.com** and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e., BSE Limited (**"BSE"**) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (**"NSE"**) at **www.bseindia.com** and **www.nseindia.com**, respectively, and on the website of KFinTech, at **https://evoting.kfintech.com**.

The documents referred to in the Notice of the AGM are available electronically for inspection, on all working days, by the members from the date of circulation of the Notice of the AGM. Members seeking to inspect such documents can send an e-mail to **rilagm@ril.com** mentioning his / her / its folio number / DP ID and Client ID.

Remote e-voting and e-voting during AGM:

The Company is providing to its members, facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM by electronic means (**"e-voting"**). Members may cast their votes remotely on the dates mentioned herein below (**"remote e-voting"**). The Company has engaged the services of KFinTech as the agency to provide e-voting facility.

Information and instructions comprising manner of voting, including voting remotely by members holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their e-mail address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The manner in which (a) persons who become members of the Company after despatch of the Notice of the AGM and holding shares as on the Cut-off Date (mentioned herein); (b) members who have forgotten the User ID and Password, can obtain / generate / retrieve the User ID and Password, has also been provided in the Notice of the AGM.

The remote e-voting facility will be available during the following voting period:

Commencement of remote e-voting : **1:00 p.m. IST on Sunday, June 14, 2026**
End of remote e-voting : **5:00 p.m. IST on Thursday, June 18, 2026**

The remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond the aforesaid date and time and the remote e-voting module shall be forthwith disabled by KFinTech upon expiry of the aforesaid period.

Members attending the AGM who have not cast vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to vote electronically at the AGM (**"Insta Poll"**).

Only a person, whose name is recorded as on the Cut-off Date, i.e., Friday, June 12, 2026, in the register of members / register of beneficial owners maintained by the Depositories, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or voting through Insta Poll.

Manner of registering / updating e-mail address:

a) Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with the Company, are requested to register / update their e-mail address by submitting Form ISR-1 (available on the website of the Company at **www.ril.com**) duly filled and signed along with requisite supporting documents to KFinTech at Unit: Reliance Industries Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad 500 032.

b) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with their Depository Participant(s), are requested to register / update their e-mail address with the Depository Participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.

In case of any query pertaining to e-voting, members may refer to the "Help" and "FAQs" sections / E-voting user manual available through a dropdown menu in the "Downloads" section of KFinTech's website for e-voting: **https://evoting.kfintech.com**.

Members are requested to note the following contact details for addressing queries / grievances relating to e-voting, if any:

Shri V. Balakrishnan, Vice President
KFin Technologies Limited
Unit: Reliance Industries Limited
Selenium Tower B, Plot 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad 500 032
E-mail: evoting.ril@kfintech.com
Toll-free No. 1800 309 4001 (from 9:00 a.m. (IST) to 6:00 p.m. (IST) on all working days)

Joining the AGM through VC / OAVM:

Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM, through JioEvents, at https://jioevents.jio.com/rilagm. The information about login credentials to be used and the steps to be followed for attending the AGM are explained in Note no. 9 of the Notice of AGM. Members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again at the AGM.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Savithri Parekh
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place : Mumbai
Dated : May 29, 2026

www.ril.com

ET THE ECONOMIC TIMES | BUSINESS VERTICALS
A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE

Realty & Beyond
BENGALURU | NORTH BENGALURU
23rd June, 2026 | Bengaluru

The Economic Times Realty & Beyond Summit 2026 - Bengaluru will bring together leading developers, policymakers, investors, consultants and real estate stakeholders to discuss the next phase of Bengaluru's real estate growth. Scheduled on June 23, 2026 at Taj MG Road, Bengaluru, the summit will focus on the city's evolving housing demand, premium and aspirational homebuying trends, emerging residential corridors, commercial real estate growth, GCC-led office demand, flex workspaces, managed living and the future of sustainable urban development.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Bengaluru's housing market in 2026: premium demand, affordability and changing buyer expectations
- Emerging residential corridors across North, East, South and peripheral Bengaluru
- Role of airport connectivity, metro expansion, Devanahalli, Hebbal, Yelahanka and Bagalur in driving growth
- GCCs, Grade-A offices and mixed-use corridors powering the next commercial real estate cycle
- Rise of flex offices, managed living, co-living and new urban consumer formats
- Senior living as an emerging residential opportunity in Bengaluru
- Impact of rising land costs, construction costs, guidance values and approvals on project viability
- Future of integrated townships, plotted developments and sustainable urban living

4+ Sessions | **6+** Hours of Networking | **25+** Speakers | **150+** Industry Stakeholders

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Contact Us:
For Partnership: navin.venkatesh@timesinternet.in | +91 99750 92516
For Speaking: ankit.sharma3@timesinternet.in | +91 8447903866
Register as Delegate: farida.khan1@timesinternet.in | +91 9129859987
www.etrealty.com/realty-beyond-summit-bengaluru

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, Tel. No.: +91 (033) 2319 7209, www.wbsedcl.in

Extract from the Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended on 31.03.2026 (₹ in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter Ended		Financial Year Ended		Quarter Ended		Financial Year Ended	
		31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	713704	960802	3711066	3874533	713704	960802	3711066	3874533
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	427	224	7218	12854	427	224	7218	12854
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	427	224	7218	12854	427	224	7218	12854
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	502	841	4858	12035	502	841	4858	12035
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	41	(166)	4754	3388	41	(166)	4754	3388
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital	581870	470080	581870	470080	581870	470080	581870	470080
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	92273	60766	92273	60766	92273	60766	92273	60766
8	Securities Premium Account	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Net Worth	645876	491909	645876	491909	645876	491909	645876	491909
10	Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	1371952	1465771	1371952	1465771	1371952	1465771	1371952	1465771
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Debt Equity Ratio	2.12	2.98	2.12	2.98	2.12	2.98	2.12	2.98
13	Earnings Per Share of ₹ 10/- each (for Continuing and Discontinued Operations)								
	1. Basic & Diluted before extraordinary items & net movement of Regulatory Deferral account balance (₹) (Quarterly figures are not annualised)	(4.07)	1.86	(2.91)	0.38	(4.07)	1.86	(2.91)	0.38
	2. Basic & Diluted after extraordinary items & net movement of Regulatory Deferral account balance (₹) (Quarterly figures are not annualised)	0.01	0.02	0.09	0.29	0.01	0.02	0.09	0.29
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	11624	22451	11624	22451	11624	22451	11624	22451
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.91	0.72	0.54	0.72	0.91	0.72	0.54	0.72
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.94	1.80	1.56	1.41	2.94	1.80	1.56	1.41

Notes :

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Statements of Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. Statements of Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results are available on the Company's website **www.wbsedcl.in** and on the website of Bombay Stock Exchange **(www.bseindia.com)**.
2. The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 28th May, 2026 and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on the same day.
3. Total value of secured, redeemable, non-convertible bonds issued by the Company on private placement basis is ₹ 100000 lakh. These securities are listed with Bombay Stock Exchange in Wholesale Debt Market. During the FY: 2025-26 the Company redeemed ₹ 50000 lakh out of total value of secured, redeemable, non-convertible bonds of ₹ 100000 lakh.
4. The previous period's figures have been re-grouped / re-classified / re-measured wherever necessary to confirm current period's classification.
5. The Financial Statements of West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited (WBGEDCL), only Associate Company of WBSEDCL, has been considered for preparation of Consolidated Financial Statement based on Audited Financial Statement obtained in this regard.
6. Ratios are calculated on annualized basis.

For West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
Sd/-
(Santanu Basu)
Chairman and Managing Director

Place: Kolkata
Date: 28th May, 2026
ICA-N139(1)/2026

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Email : stores.dis@tnpl.co.in

TNPL Unit-I invites Tender for sale of following Waste and Scrap materials on **"as is where is"** / Six months rate contract basis.

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
2026007	DIP Screw Press Sludge with Sedimator Rejects	15.06.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, quantity, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in tender document which can be download from website : **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1967/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES RISHIKESH-249203

ADMISSION NOTICE

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh invites applications for Entrance Examinations leading to admission in M.Sc. Course at AIIMS, Rishikesh for August 2026 Session.

Important: For detailed information etc. please visit Institute website (www.aiimsrishikesh.edu.in : Examination - Entrance Exam and Result) regularly as all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on website.

Executive Director
AIIMS Rishikesh

MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR
(Established by the Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2014)
Near Village Waranga, P.O. Dongargaon (Butibori), Nagpur – 441108
Website: www.nlunagpur.ac.in

The Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of Vice-Chancellor.

Qualifications:

i) He shall be an academician and having 10 Years of experience as a Professor of Law, in a University, or in a college on a post approved by a University.
ii) He must be possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.
iii) He should, in the estimation of the Chancellor, be capable of providing effective leadership to the University.

Duly filled-in applications must reach at or before 5 p.m. of 30th June, 2026, only by Registered post/ Speed Post (Not by private courier agencies), to the following address:

'The Registrar, Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, Waranga, PO: Dongargaon (Butibori), Nagpur-441108 Maharashtra.'

Detailed Notification regarding the qualification, age, salary and service conditions, term, powers and functions, procedure for appointment, the General Conditions and instructions along with the form of application, and all the other details are on the University's web-site. For same, please visit University's official web-site <www.nlunagpur.ac.in>.

Sd/-
(Deepak L. Bhagwat)
Registrar, MNLU, Nagpur

IndianOil

INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED
[CIN – L23201MH1959GOI011388]
Regd. Office: 'IndianOil Bhavan', G-9, Ali Yavar Jung Marg, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Tel: 022-26447327; **Email Id:** investors@indianoil.in; Website: www.iocl.com

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS
TRANSFER OF EQUITY SHARES TO INVESTOR EDUCATION & PROTECTION FUND

This Notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016** ("the Rules") as amended from time to time.

The Rules, interalia, provide for transfer of all shares in respect of which dividend has remained unclaimed for seven consecutive years to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) set up by the Central Government. Accordingly, the shareholders who have not claimed the Final dividend for 2018-19 and all other dividends declared by the company for 7 consecutive years thereafter, the shares held by them are liable to be transferred to the IEPF **after 02.09.2026.** The Company has sent individual communication on **26.05.2026** to those shareholders at their latest available address. The Company has also uploaded the details of such shareholders alongwith details of shares due for transfer to IEPF on its website at **www.iocl.com**. Shareholders are requested to refer to the web link **https://iocl.com/transfer-of-equity** to verify the details of the shares liable to be transferred to IEPF.

Notice is hereby given to all such shareholders to make an application alongwith appropriate documents (complete in all respect) to the Company / Registrar & Transfer Agent ("RTA") viz. KFin Technologies Ltd. by **31.07.2026** for claiming the unpaid Final dividend for the year 2018-19 onwards so that the shares will not be transferred to the IEPF. **It may please be noted that if no reply is received by the Company or the RTA by 31.07.2026 the Company will be compelled to *transfer the abovementioned unpaid dividend and shares* to the IEPF, without any further notice and no claim shall lie against the Company. The shareholders holding shares in physical form and whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF authority, may note that upon such transfer the original share certificate(s) lying with them will stand automatically cancelled and deemed non-negotiable. The Company will be preparing new share certificate(s) in lieu of such original share certificate(s) for transfer of the same to IEPF authority.**

It may also be noted that the shares transferred to IEPF, including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules.

For any clarification on the matter, please contact Mr. Bhaskar Roy, KFin Technologies Ltd., Unit- IndianOil, Selenium Tower B, Plot number 31 & 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad – 500032; Toll Free No. 1800 309 4001 ; E-mail Address : einward.ris@kfintech.com

For **Indian Oil Corporation Limited**
Sd/-
(Kamal Kumar Gwalani)
Company Secretary

Place: Mumbai
Date: 29.05.2026

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Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata
(Formerly KOLKATA PORT TRUST)

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata is looking for professionals for engagement against the following positions by **DIRECT RECRUITMENT**:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of posts	Scale of Pay
1.	Superintendent Dredger & Despatch Service	01	Rs. 1,00,000-2,60,000/-
2.	Dy. Harbour Master (Port)	01	Rs. 1,00,000-2,60,000/-
3.	Commander (Dredger & Despatch) Service	07	Rs. 90,000-2,40,000/-
4.	Commander (Pilot Vessel)	02	Rs. 90,000-2,40,000/-
5.	Manager (Environment)	01	Rs. 80,000-2,20,000/-
6.	Dy. Chief Radio Officer	01	Rs. 50,000-1,60,000/- (pre-revised Rs. 10,750-16,750/-)

For more details, last date of application and to apply as per prescribed proforma (in hard copies only), Visit "Job Openings" of SMPK website at www.smp.smportkolkata.in

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
Address : 17th Floor, Hindustan Times House Building, Kasturbha Gandhi Marg, New Delhi – 110 001

NICDC invites applications for the following posts:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Minimum Experience Required (Years)	Number of Post	Job Type
1.	Senior Manager - Civil	10	1	• Regular • Salary - As per NICDC's Pay Structure (Flexible)
2.	Assistant Manager - MIS & Project Monitoring	4	1	

- Interested candidates may visit the NICDC website for more details and apply online at **www.nicdc.in (Careers> Current Opening> Apply Online)** on or before **12th June, 2026 by 17:00 HRS.** No other mode of application shall be accepted/entertained.
- Actual number of posts may vary depending upon the suitability of candidates.

दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण / **DEENDAYAL PORT AUTHORITY**
AN ISO 9001:2008 & ISO 14001:2004 CERTIFIED PORT
(AAIVT. No.GA/PS/1736/ 2025/ 2652 dated 19/05/2026)

विषय: सीधी भर्ती द्वारा नियमित आधार पर भरे जाने वाले निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं:-

Sub: Applications are invited for the following post to be filled by Direct Recruitment on Regular Basis:-

1.) सहायक प्रबंधक (पुस्तकालय) / **Assistant Manager (Library)**
[Total 01 Post (UR-01)] / (Scale of Pay of 40000-140000 – IDA pattern)]

दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण, जो कि पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण के अंतर्गत भारत का नंबर 1 प्रमुख महापत्तन है, पात्र और इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों से उपर्युक्त सहायक प्रबंधक (पुस्तकालय) पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है, जिन्हें सीधी भर्ती द्वारा नियमित आधार पर भरा जाएगा।

The Deendayal Port Authority, India's No. 1 Major Port under the administrative control of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India, invites applications from eligible and interested candidates for the above mentioned post of Assistant Manager (Library), to be filled by Direct Recruitment on regular basis.

सम्पूर्ण विज्ञापन, आवेदन पत्र एवं अन्य विवरण के लिए कृपया दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.deendayalport.gov.in के रिक्रूटमेंट सेक्शन पर जाएं।

For complete advertisement, application form & other details please refer Recruitment Section of Deendayal Port Authority's website at www.deendayalport.gov.in.

ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 28.06.2026 है।
Last date of submission of online application is 28.06.2026
आवेदन की हार्ड कॉपी प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि 08.07.2026 है।
Last date of submission of hard copy of application is 08.07.2026

सचिव / **Secretary**
दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण
Deendayal Port Authority

Advertisement No. **58/2026**

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Personnel)
in
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)

Last date of submission of application by applicants is by15:00 hours on
16th June, 2026

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on
29th June, 2026

For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

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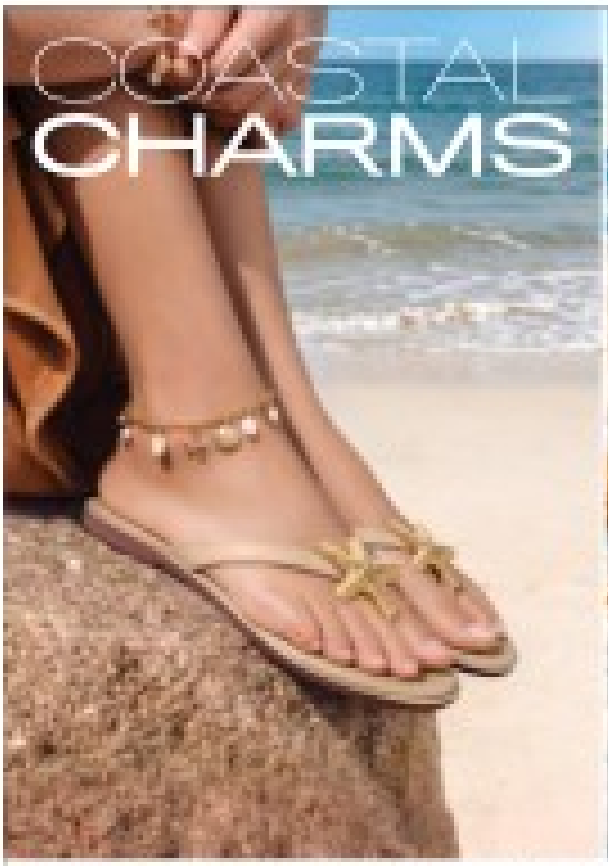

METRO

BENGALURU: Bhartiya Mall | Forum Fiza Mall | Phoenix Marketcity | Brigade Road | Hennur Main Road | Commercial Street | Basavana Hill Layout, Police Station | Hathnagar, OO Field, Road | Near to KFC, Sadashiyan | Lulu Mall | Mantri Mall of Asia | Mantri Mall | Orion Mall, Rajajinagar | Shree Gopalan Mall | The Collonade Mall | Navarathnam Nagar | Vega City Mall | Nexus Nexchange Mall | Nexus Mall, Koramangala | Nexus Shantiniketan Mall | Mid City Mall

SC says right to trauma care integral part of right to life

New Delhi: Noting that the right to trauma care of a citizen is an integral part of right to life, SC has directed states and UTs to integrate within three months all emergency/ ambulance helplines into one helpline number '112' for emergency responses.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and A S Chandurkar also directed them to establish a functional grievance redressal system under Good Samaritan laws. SC said what is required is a systemic intervention, creation of a uniform framework for trauma care, building public awareness, standardisation of first aid skills and proper Good Samaritan laws as "the right to trauma care of citizens is an integral part of right to life enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution".

"States/UTs shall complete full technical and operational integration of all emergency/ ambulance helplines (100, 101, 108, 102, 1033, 1091, etc.) into helpline 112 within a period of three months and undertake concurrent mass-media publicity of helpline 112, and report compliance," the bench said. "The Union of India (health ministry/road transport and highways ministry) is permitted to issue a medical rescue protocol for trauma cases in a period of three months and all states/ UTs are directed to operationalize the same at state/UT level upon its issue within three months thereof," the bench further said. TNN

Out-of-pocket health spend still high: NHA

Share, However, Sees A Drop To 43.4% In FY23

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Even after a sharp decline over the past decade, Indians continue to spend more from their own pockets on healthcare than people in several neighbouring and developing countries, according to the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates 2022-23 released by the health ministry.

The report's international comparison of out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) showed India's per capita spending from personal pockets stood at 121 international dollars (PPP) in 2022, placing the country at rank 64 globally. The figures highlight that despite the expansion of public healthcare schemes and insurance coverage, households in India continue to bear a substantial share of treatment costs themselves. Among neighbouring countries, the OOPE burden stood at 85 international dollars in Pakistan, 180 in Nepal, 130 in Bangladesh and 246 in Sri Lanka.

The report, however, pointed to a major long-term improvement within India. Out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of total health expenditure declined sharply from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 43.4% in 2022-23. Govt officials attributed the decline to rising public health spending, expansion of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, free drug schemes, Jan Aushadhi outlets and wider access to primary healthcare services through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

The report showed govt health expenditure nearly tripled over the decade, rising from Rs 1.3 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 3.8 lakh crore in 2022-23. Health economists say India's healthcare financing system continues to remain heavily dependent on household spending despite recent improvements.

According to the report, medicines and pharmaceutical purchases remain the single-biggest driver of personal healthcare spending in India. The international comparison also showed massive contrasts globally. Switzerland reported the world's highest per capita out-of-pocket health spending at 2,302 international dollars, followed by Malta at 1,729 and Singapore at 1,647.

Among major developed economies, the US reported OOPE of 1,380 international dollars, while the UK stood at 857 and Canada at 1,038.

At the lower end of the global ranking, Kiribati reported the world's lowest OOPE at just 2 international dollars, followed by Tuvalu and Solomon Islands at 4 international dollars each.

Public health experts say lower out-of-pocket spending is considered a key indicator of stronger public healthcare systems because it reduces the risk of families falling into poverty due to medical expenses.

BURDEN ON HOUSEHOLDS

India's OOPE ranking

India's out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) per capita | 121 PPP (purchasing power parity) international $

Global Rank | 64

India Vs Neighbours

Country	OOPE per capita (PPP Int $)
Pakistan	85
India	121
Bangladesh	130
Nepal	180
Sri Lanka	246
China	381

AI Image

Puducherry records the highest per capita govt health expenditure at ₹10,675

▶Continued from page 1

Maharashtra's spending declined from 1.2% to 0.8%, while Tamil Nadu's fell from 1.3% to 0.9%. Telangana reported 0.8% and Punjab 0.9% spending in 2022-23.

Among Union territories (UTs) with legislature, Puducherry reported one of the highest health spending shares at 5%.

Experts said 2021-22 remained an exceptional spending year because of Covid vaccination drives, emergency healthcare expenditure and pandemic-related infrastructure expansion, which pushed health spending ratios sharply higher across states. The figures have been made public at a time when states face rising burden of non-communicable diseases, ageing populations and healthcare costs.

Report also showed major differences in per capita public health spending across states. Among states and UTs with legislature, Puducherry recorded the highest per capita govt health expenditure at Rs 10,675, followed by Mizoram at Rs 9,800, Sikkim at Rs 7,400, Manipur at Rs 7,040 and Meghalaya at Rs 6,843.

Among UTs without legislature, Chandigarh reported the highest per capita govt health expenditure at Rs 20,985, followed by Lakshadweep at Rs 10,594 and Andaman & Nicobar Islands at Rs 8,888. Among larger states, Kerala reported one of the highest per capita public health expenditures at Rs 3,592, though lower than Rs 4,338 reported in 2021-22. Karnataka's per capita spending also declined, from Rs 3,259 to Rs 2,333 over the same period.

Uttar Pradesh reported one of the lowest per capita govt health expenditures among major states at Rs 1,419, followed by Jharkhand at Rs 1,536 and MP at Rs 1,827. Despite low per capita spending, Uttar Pradesh recorded the country's highest total govt health expenditure at Rs 33,352 crore because of its massive population base, followed by Maharashtra at Rs 30,537 crore and Tamil Nadu at Rs 21,517 crore.

The report further showed that West Bengal allocated 8.5% of its total govt expenditure towards health, one of the highest among major states, while Kerala allocated 8.3% and Uttarakhand 8.2%.

Public health experts say the figures reflect deep interstate inequalities in healthcare priorities, with several smaller states spending aggressively despite limited economic resources.

The data also underlines continuing dependence of larger states on private healthcare systems despite rising demand for stronger public health infrastructure after Covid-19 pandemic.

LOWEST PER CAPITA SPEND IN UP, HIGHEST IN PUDUCHERRY

Small states lead public health spending

Highest health spending as % of GSDP

Manipur	5.5%
Puducherry	5.0
Meghalaya	4.4
Nagaland	3.6
Mizoram	3.2

Richer states spend below 1%

% of GSDP spent on health

Karnataka	0.7%
Maharashtra	0.8
Telangana	0.8
Punjab	0.9
Tamil Nadu	0.9

Highest per capita govt health spending

Per capita GHE

Puducherry	₹10,675
Mizoram	9,800
Sikkim	7,400
Manipur	7,040
Meghalaya	6,843

Union Territories

Chandigarh	20,985
Lakshadweep	10,594
A&N Islands	8,888

Lowest per capita spending among major states

Per capita GHE

Uttar Pradesh	₹1,419
Jharkhand	1,536
MP	1,827

Highest total govt health spending

Total GHE

Uttar Pradesh	₹33,352 crore
Maharashtra	₹30,537 crore
Tamil Nadu	₹21,517 crore

States allocating highest share of govt expenditure to health

Health share in total govt spending	West Bengal	Kerala	Uttarakhand
	8.5%	8.3%	8.2%

Educators feel system treats them as free, multi-purpose labour

▶Continued from page 1

As per the directive, every single school under Nawabganj BEO's jurisdiction was expected to deliver 46 kg of straw to the block development officer or the veterinary office within a week. The order met with fierce resistance from educators who feel the system treats them as free, multi-purpose labour rather than professionals. "What exactly are we here for—to educate children or collect straw? It is inappropriate to force teachers into this. Today they want us to carry bags of straw, tomorrow they will tell us to collect cow dung or sweep floors. It is unacceptable, and if they persist, we will take to the streets," said Bhanu Pratap Singh, a govt school teacher. Singh pointed out that teachers are already stretched thin balancing classroom duties with the ongoing national Census. "Forcing these kinds of tasks on us destroys our morale," he said.

"If a teacher is busy with such tasks, when will they teach? It seems someone is deliberately trying to tarnish our image," said teacher Rita Batra.

Teacher Ramesh Maurya echoed similar sentiments, saying, "We will always do work that aligns with the dignity of our profession. But this current order crosses the line."

As public criticism intensified on social media, senior administrative officials quickly distanced themselves from the controversy. Bareilly district magistrate Avinash Singh claimed he had absolutely no knowledge of the directive. Defending the move initially, BEO Satyadev alleged that teachers were not complying with departmental orders. "Therefore, instructions to provide fodder were made mandatory earlier," he said and clarified that the order was not issued personally by him, but under the instructions of Basic Shiksha Adhikari Vineeta Singh. Following the public uproar, Satyadev was forced to issue a second letter clarifying that the straw collection was entirely voluntary.

SC: Only 'throne' goes to eldest son, royal wealth must be split

Kapurthala Heirs' 49-Year Property Battle Settled

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

PRIMOGENITURE OVERTURNED

New Delhi: It is only the 'gaddi' (throne) of an erstwhile Maharaja which can be bequeathed as per the rule of primogeniture, which makes the eldest male lineal descendant the successor, but properties and royal assets have to be divided among legal heirs as per the Hindu or Muslim succession law, the Supreme Court has ruled.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and SVN Bhatti said "only the perceived throne devolved according to the rule of primogeniture, but not the personal private properties of the ruler", and set aside the HC order which held that the rule of primogeniture would prevail in the succession of properties. The court brings the curtain down on litigation going on for the last 49 years among descendants of Maharaja Paramjit Singh of Kapurthala. The court directed the eldest male to share property with his other legal heirs as per Hindu succession law.

It said the merger agreement signed by the Maharaja with the Indian govt preserved the rule of primogeniture only in respect of succession to the throne but in no way guaranteed this in respect of the private personal properties of the Maharaja.

The court said that the rulers surrendered their sovereignty and assumed the status of ordinary citizens upon signing the merger agreement with certain rights and privileges as set out in the Constitution.

"Such a person, though defined as a 'ruler', has no territory and exercises no sovereignty over any subjects. He is simply a citizen of India with certain privileges because he or his predecessors surrendered their territory, powers, and sovereignty to the Dominion of India. Apparently, such rulers were in name only, with no lands or personal property. They were rajas without praja," it said.

"In view of the above discussion that the properties declared to be the private properties of the Maharaja would devolve according to Hindu law/law of succession and not by rule of primogeniture, the judgment and order of the learned single judge as well as of the division bench of HC which holds that the rule of primogeniture would prevail in the succession of properties is illegal and is unsustainable in law," the bench said.

PM Modi to be personally monitoring preparations for NEET June 21 re-exam

▶Continued from page 1

The move, however, acknowledges the ever-evolving tricks used by those determined to leak papers of the entrance test for coveted seats in medical colleges, and the importance for govt to ensure the forthcoming NEET's integrity. "The approach this time is that every vulnerable point in the examination chain must be secured with maximum redundancy and supervision. Govt is leaving no stone unturned," a source said.

The sources said if the IAF plan is implemented, its planes will deliver exam papers for the forthcoming NEET to select locations in a state, such as Lucknow, Agra and Gorakhpur and Varanasi in UP; or Patna and Darbhanga in Bihar; Kolkata and Bagdogra in Bengal. From then on, state agencies will take over the job of taking papers to districts and keeping them in safe custody and delivering them to exam centres. Currently, delivery of papers is handled by a postal department.

Officials said Thursday's meeting carried out a detailed review of the entire exam cycle—from empanelment of paper setters and printing protocols to transportation routes, storage facilities, distribution networks and last-mile security arrangements at exam centres.

Besides exploring use of the IAF, discussions also focused on deeper coordination with MHA and state home departments for secure movement and monitoring of question papers. Sources said district administrations and police units are also likely to be integrated more closely into the transportation and custody chain.

The PM is understood to be personally monitoring preparations for the June 21 retest and is being regularly briefed on operational and security measures linked to the exam process, officials said. NEET-UG 2026, conducted on May 3 across 551 cities in India and 14 overseas centres for nearly 23 lakh candidates, was cancelled on May 12 following allegations of a question paper leak. CBI, which is probing the case, has arrested 13 people from different cities.

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The right way for students to use AI? This CBSE batch has answers

Using it as a tool to improve concepts and break down complex chapters into easy explainers, they found in AI a mentor with limitless patience. The outcome? Many of them improved their scores, writes **Ayantika Pal**

"Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen/Bright topaz denizens of a world of green."

Every time Class 12 student Tashvi Berry opened her English literature book to study American poet Adrienne Rich's 12-line metaphor-drenched rage against patriarchy, these famous opening lines made absolutely no sense.

For the 17-year-old with learning disabilities, who had the poem for her CBSE Class 12 boards, the struggle with the many poetic devices — juxtaposition, symbolism, irony — that make up the poem felt like a losing battle. "I felt like I was getting stuck, because I simply couldn't understand the deeper meaning of the lines," Tashvi says.

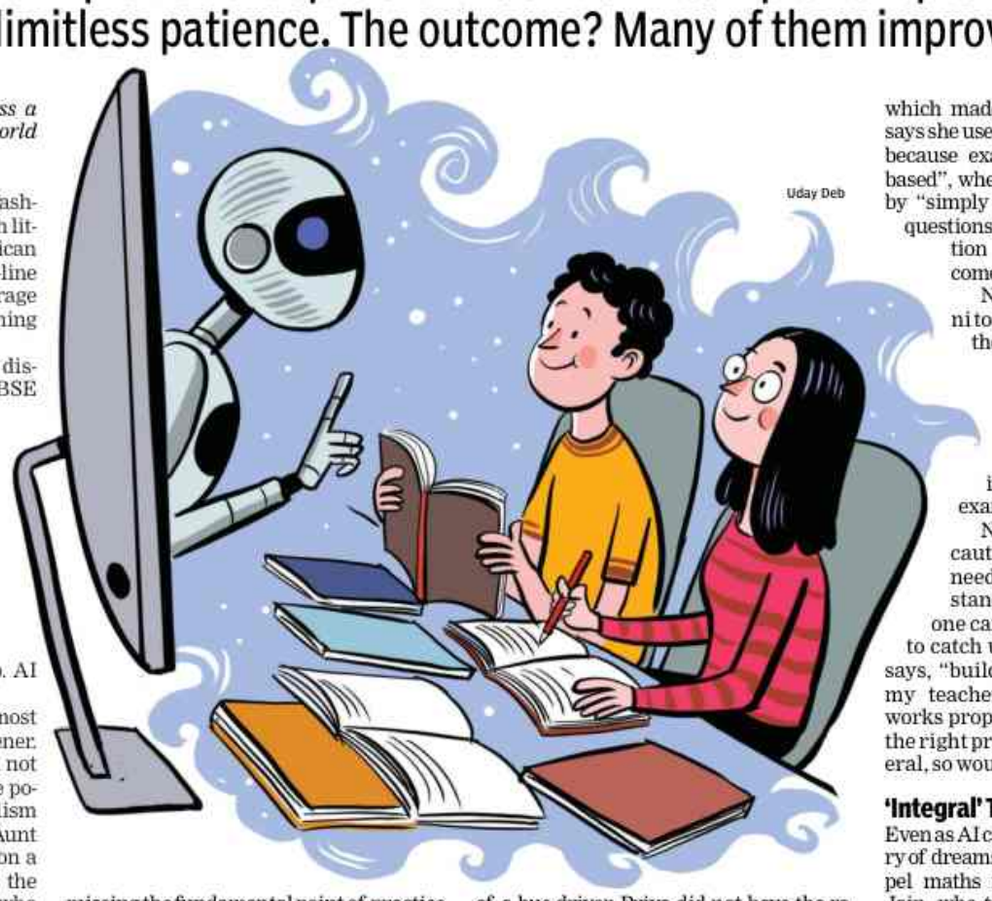
Classroom teaching did little to break down the poem. Even private tutors couldn't help her.

But Tashvi was not beyond help. AI knew exactly what to do.

Tashvi turned to ChatGPT — almost as a last resort — and it was an eye-opener. The AI, in its tutor avatar, explained not only the opening lines, but the entire poem, line by line. It taught her symbolism through 'action' — that the poem's Aunt Jennifer was actually sewing tigers on a piece of cloth; that embroidery was the mode of self-expression of a woman who felt afraid and trapped in marriage; and that she was speaking her mind through the brave and free tigers she stitches.

"ChatGPT explained each metaphor that was used, why certain words like 'Uncle' are important, how questions could be framed in exams, and what the answer should be like," says Tashvi.

Once she cracked it, she went back to AI with questions she had about 'The Third Level', a short story in her syllabus themed on escapism. "The AI helped me make notes in simple language and in bullet points. I kept turning to AI for anything that I had conceptual doubts about, or when I needed more information, such as for painting theory and Rajasthani art," says the Delhi-based student, who cleared CBSE Class 12 earlier this month with 87%, a big improvement from her Class 10 score of 70%.



Tutoring & Mentoring

Since the AI dam burst, its use in schools has been frowned upon, especially when it involved students using it as shortcuts, missing the fundamental point of practice — to help write essays, to use it to solve math problems, or when AI-generated answers were copied, word for word, for projects. But the latest graduating CBSE batch is replete with examples of AI being used well — where students used AI as a mentor and guide to supplement classroom learning and improve exam performance.

From simplifying difficult concepts and ironing out last-minute doubts, to generating answer-writing patterns and practising with model papers, to even asking AI to generate the best study routine, these students harnessed the power of AI to make themselves better prepared.

Aditi Mishra, who scored 99.2%, said AI played a supporting role by summarising long chapters. "Classroom teaching is irreplaceable," says Mishra, who studied at Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School in Lucknow and wants to go to medical college, "but AI can be used for assistance and revision."

Priya Singh, who appeared for the CBSE Class 12 exam from Amitasha Foundation in Noida, scored 97%. The daughter of a bus driver, Priya did not have the resources to take additional tuitions or to buy reference books. "AI became my reference book and tutor," she told **TOI**. "In political science, there was mention of Mandal Commission, but my NCERT book had limited information. When I used ChatGPT to research it, I got the full picture and its importance in understanding reservation in India." Priya had scored around 70% in Class 10, so it's been a huge improvement for her. "For history and home science, I prompted it to explain topics to me like a teacher would explain to a beginner. That made chapters I found difficult easier to retain," she says.

Others used AI whenever they needed better analytical understanding of a topic. One such example is that of Nisha Solanki, who scored 92.4% in Class 10 and cleared her Class 12 boards with 98.2%.

"Instead of memorising chapters, I wanted to understand why voting patterns change and how electoral verdicts reflect social and political shifts," says the DPS Gurgaon student. "And Gemini explained trends with examples and comparisons, which made my answers better." Nisha says she used AI for deeper understanding because exams today are "competency-based", where one cannot hope to do well by "simply mugging up definitions", as questions are framed such that application and interpretation also become important.

Nisha says she also used Gemini to understand Sigmund Freud's theories for her psychology answers. "Freud's concepts were not easy to understand directly from the textbook. But I developed a genuine interest in the topic after asking questions and exploring examples on AI."

Nisha, however, has a word of caution. Using AI meaningfully needs a foundational understanding of a subject, she says, so one can't just skip classes and hope to catch up using AI. "Teachers," she says, "build that basic foundation, and my teachers were amazing. AI only works properly if you know how to give the right prompts. If your prompt is general, so would be the response."

'Integral' To Maths

Even as AI can make sense of Freud's theory of dreams, it can also, as it turns out, dispel maths nightmares. Just ask Aarya Jain, who took her Class 12 boards from Apeejay School in Noida. Aarya scored just 60 in her Class 11 exams. "Integral calculus used to confuse me, because the same method would work for one question and fail for the other. But AI tools solved each problem I had failed to grasp step by step, showed alternative methods and explained where exactly mistakes happened," says Aarya, who improved her maths score to 85 at the boards.

Several utilised AI for exam practice and time management. Gunjan Chauhan used AI to create and evaluate mock tests in all papers. "I would write the answers and upload them back to the chatbot, which suggested improvements, pointed out weaknesses and explained how answers could be structured better for boards. It felt like practising with a teacher who was available anytime," says the NCR-based student. Lucknow's Aishwarya Pandey, who scored 99%, used AI to create a timetable for board preparation. By entering details such as school hours, study time, rest and hobbies, she was able to generate a structured daily schedule.

Shreyash Srivastava of DPS Greater Noida, who had an overall score of 98.4%, says he used AI for his organic chemistry preparation. "Reactions can become confusing — like what breaks into what, why a reagent behaves differently, or how mechanisms change. AI tools explained reactions visually and logically. To stand out, you need extra conceptual clarity. Referring to multiple books takes time, but AI gives quick explainers with as many examples as you want," he says.

'Can't Replace Teachers, Textbooks'

Educators welcomed meaningful use of AI, but they also had a word of caution. "AI tools can certainly be used as guidance platforms for homework, concept clarification and gaining additional knowledge beyond textbooks," says educationist Aditi Basu, president (Noida) of All India Principals Association. "Many students today use AI. But they must remember that these tools should support learning, not replace teachers. It is always advisable to cross-check information with teachers or tutors because AI-generated responses can sometimes be incomplete, oversimplified or even inaccurate."

Ritu Srivastava, principal of Sri Chaitanya School, Noida, acknowledges that AI has made life a bit easier for "both students and teachers". For teachers, she says, mock tests, academic schedules, personalised assignments, lesson plans and even assessment tools can be created within seconds using AI. At the same time, she warns against over-reliance, saying there are drawbacks that educators and students must learn to address. "In many instances, there was an obvious lack of a 'human touch' in answers framed by students in this year's CBSE boards. Hopefully, as AI evolves further, with more advanced prompts, these gaps will gradually be addressed," she says.

Seema Jerath, principal of DLF Public School, Ghaziabad, echoed her. "I have seen many students — who used to struggle with certain chapters, subjects or concepts — become far more confident and fluent after using AI tools to clarify doubts. The speed with which kids have taken to this technology is truly remarkable."

And she, too, signs off with a note of caution. "It is equally important for teachers to guide students responsibly and help them understand what is right, accurate and meaningful learning," she adds.

— Inputs from ***Mohita Tewari*** *in Lucknow*

SCORING AI+

What are the poetic devices used in Aunt Jennifer's Tigers? Explain them line by line

—Tashvi Berry

Explain Mandal Commission like a teacher would explain it to a beginner

—Priya Singh

Why do voting patterns change? Explain with examples and comparisons

—Nishka Solanki

Solve this integration problem step by step and show me where I went wrong

—Aarya Jain

Make a board-style mock test and then check my answers like an examiner

—Gunjan Chauhan

Explain this organic chemistry reaction visually and logically, with examples

—Shreyash Srivastava

Chandrayaan-2 finds possible ice buried on Moon's south pole

Discovery Was Made By Researchers At Physical Research Lab, Ahmd

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ice is not sitting on the surface where astronauts could simply scoop it up. It lies underground, hidden inside some of the most extreme environments in entire solar system

Bengaluru: Scientists working with India's Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft have discovered strong evidence of ice buried beneath the floor of the Moon's south pole region in "doubly-shadowed" craters, a finding that could prove critical for future human missions to the lunar surface.

The discovery, published this week in the Nature portfolio journal "npj Space Exploration", was made by researchers at the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad, who analysed radar data beamed back from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which has been circling the Moon since 2019.

The ice is not sitting on the surface where astronauts could simply scoop it up. It lies underground, hidden inside some of the most extreme environments in the entire solar system — craters so deep and so permanently in shadow that sunlight has never once touched their floors.

Some of these craters sit inside other craters that are themselves permanently dark, creating what scientists call "doubly shadowed" regions. Temperatures there hover around minus 248 degrees Celsius, cold enough to keep ice frozen for billions of years.

It is precisely because of that extraordinary cold that the ice has survived at all. And it is precisely because of that darkness that finding it has taken so long. The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft carries a specialised radar instrument — the Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar, or DFSAR — described by Isro as 'the first fully-polarimetric SAR to study the Moon".

Rather than taking photographs, it fires microwave signals at the lunar surface and reads how they bounce back. Ice scatters those signals in a distinctive way that rock and dust simply do not.

Isro said scientists had "identified radar signatures consistent with the possible presence of subsurface ice beneath the floors of four doubly shadowed craters in the lunar South Polar Region".

Of the nine craters studied, one stands out. A small crater just 1.1km wide, nestled inside the larger Faustini crater, shows what the researchers describe as the strongest evidence of all. Its tell-tale radar readings are reinforced by something visible even in imagery: its rim has an unusual, flowing, lobed shape, the kind of outline you would expect if a meteorite had slammed into ground containing ice, causing it to slosh outward before freezing in place.

Isro noted the crater is "characterised by lobate-rim morphology," adding that "the impact may have penetrated subsurface ice, producing the observed lobate-rim crater."

Why does any of this matter to anyone beyond a handful of planetary scientists? Because water is heavy, expensive and extraordinarily difficult to launch from Earth.

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Richa.Gandhi
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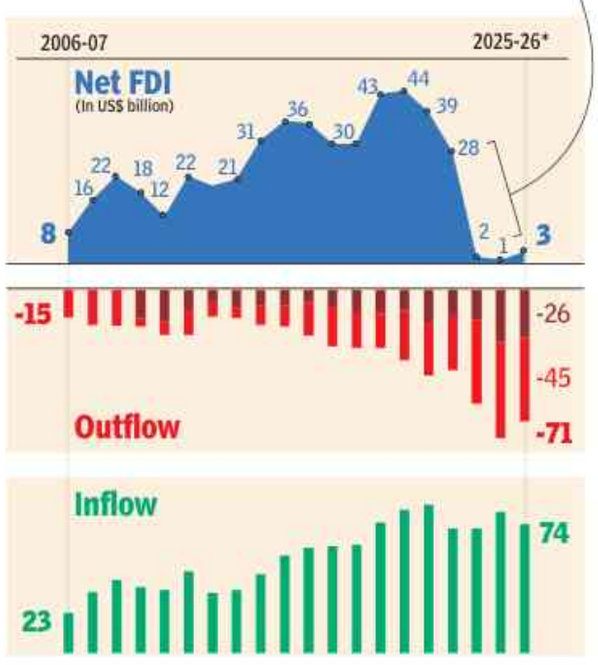
FDI was supposed to be the dependable kind of foreign money — the kind that built factories, brought technology and stayed for the long haul. FPI was the flighty cousin, quick to exit when markets turned. But India's net FDI has now shrunk to a trickle as rising repatriation and disinvestment offset strong inflows. What changed?



$74bn in, $71bn out

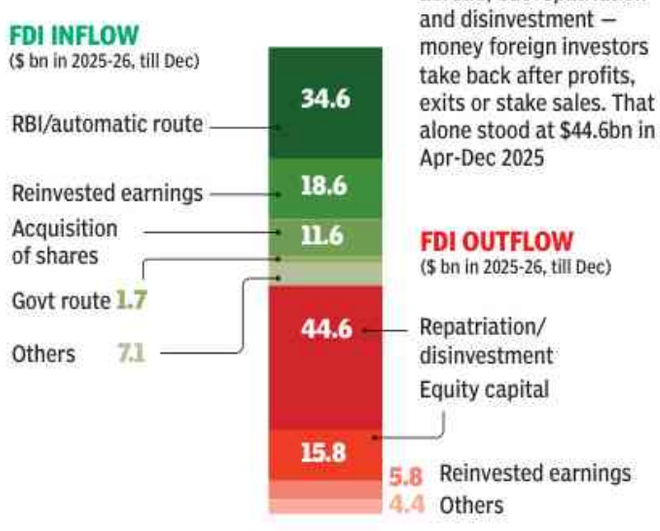
In nine months of fiscal year 2025-26, only $3 billion of **net FDI** came into the country. In 2024-25, that figure was $1bn — $81bn inflow, $80bn outflow

The stock market boom after 2021 led to several foreign companies listing in Indian markets. After listing, a big chunk of money raised was transferred to home country as **repatriation & disinvestment**. Similar outflows happen when **Indian companies invest abroad**. Not to ignore in all this is the fact that gross **FDI inflows** haven't fallen and have actually risen after 2023-24

*Till Dec 2025

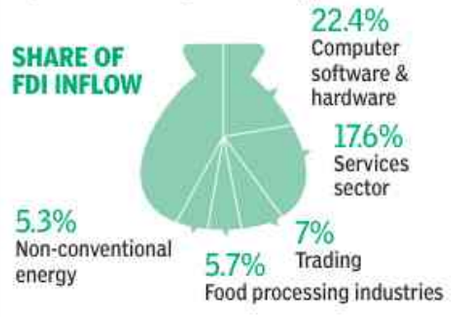
THE $44.6BN REASON NET FDI SHRANK

Biggest outflow is not Indian firms investing abroad, but repatriation and disinvestment — money foreign investors take back after profits, exits or stake sales. That alone stood at $44.6bn in Apr-Dec 2025



SECTOR PREFERENCE

Foreign investors are betting mainly on services, software, manufacturing and trading in India. Indian firms investing abroad are putting more money into finance, business services, manufacturing and trade — showing that inbound and outbound capital are chasing different opportunities



FLOWS THROUGH FEW HUBS

Large share of FDI continues to move through Singapore and Mauritius. These are not just source countries; they are global routing hubs used by firms for tax, treaty and corporate structuring reasons

FAVOURITE STATES

FDI is not spread evenly across the country. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Haryana attract over 80% of inflows, reflecting stronger infrastructure, business ecosystems and investor familiarity

Dhillon is only second Sikh to head BJP in Punjab

▶ Continued from page 1

As a junior ally of Akali Dal, it was expected to complement its partner's largely Sikh vote bank with its mostly Hindu voters to make a winning combination before their split in 2021, which prompted BJP to seek to expand out of its urban base and make its own bid for power. It has rewarded Jat Sikhs like Taranjit Singh Sandhu, now Delhi LG, and Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu with key positions.

Dhillon (76) is only the second Sikh to head BJP in Punjab after former MP Daya Singh Sodhi. Considered close to ex-CM Amarinder Singh, who joined BJP in 2022, Dhillon replaces Sunil Jakhar, who too had a long stint in Congress and had expressed his wish to quit way back in 2024 but was persuaded by the BJP brass to continue.

The appointment of Malhotra, the only MP from Delhi who is a minister in govt, has intensified the buzz in political circles over a Cabinet reshuffle, more so as PM Modi has not yet carried out changes in his council of ministers, which is now two-year old, after he took office for a third term in 2024. In his first term, he had effected extensive changes in govt within 6 months of forming govt in May 2014. Another Union minister Pankaj Chaudhary was made UP BJP president in Dec. An overhaul of BJP's national organisation is also due since Nitin Nabin took over in Jan. In Haryana, Archana Gupta was elevated from general secretary to party president, while MLA Abhishek Debroy was named as BJP's Tripura president.

Harsh Malhotra, East Delhi MP, is now Delhi BJP Chief

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New Delhi: Harsh Malhotra, the East Delhi MP who is also the Union minister of state for road transport and highways, was appointed the Delhi BJP chief on Thursday.

He will succeed Virendra Sachdeva, who has helmed the Delhi BJP since Dec 2022. During his stint, the party won the Delhi assembly elections after a gap of 27 years.

Malhotra was made a minister of state when Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to lead the NDA govt in 2024.

Considered close to RSS, Malhotra contested from the BJP stronghold of East Delhi.

About his new role, Malhotra said he believe "that responsibilities in the BJP are like a 400-metre relay race. Today, Shri Virendra Sachdeva has handed over to me the baton of responsibility, and I resolve that with the support of thousands of party workers in Delhi and under the guidance of the leadership, I will make every effort to strengthen the BJP in Delhi."

His first challenge in Delhi as the state unit head would be the MCD polls next year. BJP lost control of MCD in the last full civic body elections in Dec 2022, when AAP unseated it. However, in couple of years, several from AAP defected and now BJP has its mayor in MCD.

Senior party functionaries said that another challenge before Malhotra would be coordination with the BJP govt. As he is the minister of state for road transport and highways as well as corporate affairs, Delhi's infrastructure projects may get expedited with the Centre's help. Malhotra has been working for party's organisation for a long time.

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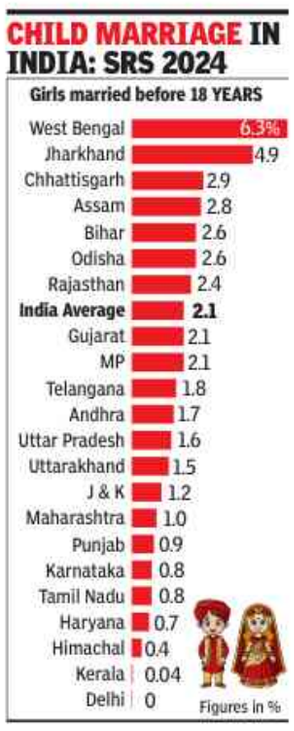
Child marriage persists despite nat'l decline, Bengal tops list: Data



Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Child marriage persists in several Indian states despite years of campaigns promoting girls' education and delayed marriage, with West Bengal and Jharkhand reporting the country's highest share of girls marrying before the legal age of 18 years, according to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2024.

The report — released by the Registrar General of India — showed that while most women in India now marry after 21 years, pockets of early marriage remain entrenched in parts of eastern and central India. Nationally, 2.1% of women who got married in 2024 were below 18 years of age, while 24.5% married between 18 and 20 years. Nearly three-fourths — 73.5% — married at 21 years or above. Overall, more than one in four women in India still got married before the age of 21 in 2024, the report showed.

Bengal recorded the country's highest proportion of girls marrying before 18 years at 6.3%, followed by Jharkhand at 4.9%. Chhattisgarh was also identified among states where a considerable proportion of girls (2.9%) continue to marry before adulthood. In rural India, 2.4% of girls married before turning 18, compared to 1.1% in urban areas.

Among rural regions, Bengal reported the highest share of child marriages at 5.9%, followed by Jharkhand (5.8%). Bengal was also at the top for child marriages in urban areas at 7.6%, far above the urban national average of 1.1%. Delhi reported zero child marriage in the survey, while Kerala recorded one of the lowest rates at 0.04%. Haryana and Himachal also reported very low figures.

Public health experts say early marriage is closely linked with school dropout, early pregnancy, higher maternal health risks and lower workforce participation among women.

Thane civic body ordered to pay ₹10 lakh for RTI delay in property case

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Pune: Maharashtra State Information Commission has ordered Thane Municipal Corporation to pay Rs 10 lakh compensation to an RTI applicant, calling its prolonged failure to provide property records an "inexcusable delay" that weakened his legal rights in an ongoing court dispute.

State information commissioner Shekhar Channe of Konkan bench passed the order last month under section 19(8)(b) of RTI Act, which empowers commission to compensate applicants for loss or detriment caused by denial of information. Thane civic body has been directed to pay compensation through cheque within 30 days.

Case stemmed from an RTI plea filed by Parashuram Patil, who sought records related to transfer of a property within Thane civic body's limits, including documents from 1986 to 1996. Patil allegedly needed papers to establish ownership claims in a civil court battle. According to commission order, civic body repeatedly failed to furnish records, citing age of documents and dissolution of concerned ward committee.

Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior
Deemed to be University
Government of India,
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

No.: Cont./04/2025-26/09 Date: 26.05.2026

NOTICE

Institute has published a Notice No. Cont./04/2025-26/23 dated 25.05.2026 for contractual appointments of various Non-teaching posts. Last date of applied online is 10.06.2026. All the eligible and desirous candidates for various posts are invited for Walk-in-Interview. All the appointments against the above said notice will be on purely contractual basis, without any right or likelihood of permanent absorption in near future and neither will have any right to be considered for regular appointment.

For further details regarding posts, date, qualification, experience and salary, please visit Institute website www.lnipe.edu.in. Corrections/ alterations if any in the above-mentioned notice will only be uploaded on the Institute website.

Registrar

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004(KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/ Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/01/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. Clear Title: khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 1337/2023)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No. 92/8(92/105) and 92/4(92/106), measuring to an extent of 0.7892 hectares and 0.1618 Hectares respectively which is situated at Mavilayi Desom, Mavilayi Village, Peralasseri Grama Panchayat limits, Kannur Taluk, Kannur District, Kerala Google Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/tsth7byMo7Ne6djx8 Latitude and Longitude : 11°50'22.6"N 75°28'20.4"E	2,61,00,000/-	26,10,000/-	2,61,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
10th June 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	11th June 2026, 11:00am to 05:00pm	18th June 2026 Before 5pm	22nd June 2026 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174

Date: 27.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/851/Zen/2026-27

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

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Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC/CR/01/2023-24

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.

64 under construction flats on Sy.No.412, 416/1 and 416/2 of Devanahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,, residentially converted by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Devanahalli Town municipal council, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Google Map Link: https://maps.app.goo.gl/kcpwxUcBiPP37ztZ7, for more details regarding Minimum bid Price, EMD and other details please visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in & https://sploca.org/)

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
10th June 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	12th June 2026, 11:00am to 05:00pm	18th June 2026 Before 5pm	22nd June 2026 11 am to 1 pm

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Date: 27.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/848/NR/2026-27

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the KPIDFE Act 2004 and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court the Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/31/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. Clear Title: RTC/Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	All the piece and parcel of immovable property bearing No 2-103-42 (old No 5-203) area measuring East to west 110 sq ft and North to South 61 sq ft Total measuring area 6710 Sq.ft situated at 5th ward, Budhihaloni, near Bhoomareddy college, Gajendragada Taluk, Gadag district. Latitude and Longitude : 15°44'00.9"N 75°58'13.3"E	87,23,000/-	8,73,000/-	88,000/-
2.	All the piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Survey No 402/1, measuring 05 acres 04 cents situated at Hirehadagali village, Hirehadagali Hobli, Hadagali Taluk, Vijayanagara District. Latitude and Longitude : 14°55'59.0"N 75°49'41.0"E	2,52,00,000/-	25,20,000/-	2,52,000/-
3.	All the piece and parcel of immovable property bearing No 2-103-42/A (old No 203A) area measuring East to west 110 sq ft and North to South 33 sq ft Total measuring area 3630 Sq.ft situated at 5th ward, Gajendragada Taluk, Gadag district Latitude and Longitude : 15°44'01.5"N 75°58'13.6"E	47,19,000/-	4,72,000/-	48,000/-
4.	All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No 8-508-1, Old No 408/1, Assessment No 5139/1, situated at 18th ward, Bangara, Kampli Taluk, Bellary District measuring East to West 4.45288 mts and North to South 6.400813 mts Total measuring 26.53216 sq mts Latitude and Longitude : 15°24'16.5"N 76°35'52.4"E	6,25,221/-	63,000/-	7,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
10th June 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	11th June 2026, 11:00am to 05:00pm	18th June 2026 Before 5pm	22nd June 2026 11 am to 1 pm

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Date: 27.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/852/Zen/2026-27

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE, HYDERABAD
ZONAL OFFICE 3RD FLOOR, SHAKAR BHAWAN, BASHEERBAGH, HYDERABAD- 500004

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

This notice is for sale of the following immovable properties on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis through e-auction event No. MSTC/HYD/Directorate of Enforcement/1/Hyderabad/26-27/11132 of MSTC Ltd., scheduled to be held on 12.06.2026.

SN	Description of Items	Location of property
1	All that commercial building in Sy No.20/3/AA/3/1, 20/5/AA/3/1, 20/1, 20/2, 20/3, 20/4, 20/5 & 20/6 total admeasuring 3726 Sq Yards	Hydershakote Village & Gram Panchayat, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana
2	H. No: 8-2-609, undivided share of land measuring 1593.4 Sq yds out of 3923 Sqyds on stilts+ upper floors & 5th and 6th floor ACC Shed of Naina Towers having built-up area of 45217 sqfts	Shaikpet, Road No.10, Banajra hilis,Hyderabad, Telangana.
3	Land admeasuring 2329.4 Sq.Yds out of 3923 Sqyds and building constructed there on namely Karvy Centre admeasuring 56601Sqft consisting of cellar, ground and 4 upper floors including pent house with assessment no. 8-2-609	Survey no.119,120 of Shaikpet, Road No.10, Banajra hills,Hyderabad, Telangana.
4	Flat No. 108, 1st floor, admeasuring 1270Sft, Car parking 100Sft, undivided share 27.03 Sqyds or 22.59 Sqmts out of the total land area of 2294 Sqyds	H.S. Royal in premises bearing GHMC No. 8-1-40/1/A, B,C,D, E & F situated at Shaikpet village, Hyderabad, Telanagana
5	Flat No. 110, 1st floor, admeasuring 1255Sft, Car parking 100Sft, undivided share 26.71 Sqyds or 22.32 Sqmts out of the total land area of 2294 Sqyds	H.S. Royal in premises bearing GHMC No. 8-1-40/1/A, B,C,D, E & F situated at Shaikpet village, Hyderabad, Telanagana
6	Flat No. 111, 1st floor, admeasuring 1315Sft, Car parking 100Sft, undivided share 28 Sqyds or 23.40 Sqmts out of the total land area of 2294 Sqyds	H.S. Royal in premises bearing GHMC No. 8-1-40/1/A, B,C,D, E & F situated at Shaikpet village, Hyderabad, Telanagana
7	Flat No. 112, 1st floor, admeasuring 1205Sft, Car parking 100Sft, undivided share 25.65 Sqyds or 21.44 Sqmts out of the total land area of 2294 Sqyds	H.S. Royal in premises bearing GHMC No. 8-1-40/1/A, B,C,D, E & F situated at Shaikpet village, Hyderabad, Telanagana
8	All that the house bearing M.C.H No. 8-2-293/82/L/30-B on Plot No. 30-B in Sy No. 403/1 of Shaikpet Village and 102/1 of Hakeempet Village admeasuring 5867 SFt, admeauring 600 Sqyds	MLA Colony, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.
9	All that House bearing Municipal No.8-2-293/82/L/32 and 8-2-293/82/L/33 on Plot No.32-B & 33-B admeasuring 847 Sq Yards	Sri Venkateswara Co-operative House Building Society, Hakeempet Village, MLA Colony, Road No.12, Extn Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.
10	House (Municipal No. 8-2-406) consisting of Basement area 4533 Sft, Stilt area 4533 Sft, Ground area 4497 Sft, first area 4497 Sft, and second Floors Area 1190 Sft, with total build up area 19250 Sft, admeasuring 1000 S. Yards or 837 S. Meters	Road No. 6, Street No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, T.S.
11	All that the Duplex House on Plot bearing No. 866-B (Type-b), in Survey No.202, admeasuring 200.00 Sqyds	Sri Ram Nagar colony, Kondapur Village , Serilingampally Mandal, Under G.H.M.C ,Ranga Reddy District.
12	All that the Duplex House on Plot bearing No. 867 (Type-B), in Survey No.202, admeasuring 200.00 Sqyds. , along with built up area of 5,000 square Feet	Sri Ram Nagar colony, Kondapur Village , Serilingampally Mandal, Under G.H.M.C ,Ranga Reddy District.
13	Agricultural dry land in Sy. No. 113/A/1 an extent of 15 Guntas, Sy No.113/A/5 to an extent of 01 Gunta, Sy No.113/A/4 to an extent of 04 Guntas, Sy No.113/E/3 to an extent of 15 Guntas, Sy No.113/A to an extent of 15 Guntas, SY No. 113/F to an extent of 17 Guntas, Sy No.113/D to an extent of 16 Guntas, Sy No.113/A/5 to an extent of 3 Guntas, Sy No.113/F/2 to an extent of 20 Guntas, Sy No.113/A3 to an extent of 4 Guntas, total an extent of 2 Acres 30 Guntas	Yethbarpally Village, Nakkalapally Grampanchayat, Moinabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana.
14	Flat No.103, No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A/A1/103, 1st Floor, HS Residency admeasuring 1105 Sq Feets	Vali Colony, Toli Chowki, Hyderabad.
15	Flat No.301, 3rd Floor, HS Residency, admeasuring 956 Sq Feets in Premises bearing No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A & 9-4-134/A/5/A23/1/A/1	Vali Colony, Toli Chowki, Hyderabad.
16	Flat No.106, First Floor, HS Residency, (bearing Municipal No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A/A1/106) admeasuring 966 Sq Feets in Premises bearing No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A & 9-4-134/A/5/A23/1/A/1	Vali Colony, Toli Chowki, Hyderabad.
17	Shop No.3, Ground Floor, Afia Plaza, MCH No.10-4-3, Sy No.2, admeasuring 320 Sq Feets	Masab Tank, Hyderabad.
18	Shop No. F-1, F-2 & F-3 in First floor of Afia Plaza each shop admeasuring 324 Sq.feets in premises bearing MCH No.10-4-3 in part of Sy No.12	Masab Tank, Hyderabad.
19	Shop No.F-11, First Floor, Afia Plaza, MCH No.10-4-3, admeasuring 320 Sq Feets	Masab Tank, Hyderabad.
20	Flat No.201, 2nd Floor, GHMC No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A/A1/201, HS Residency, admeasuring 956 Sq Feets, in Premises bearing No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A & 9-4-134/A/5/A/23/1/A/1	Valli Colony, Toli Chowki, Hyderabad.
21	Shop No.11 & 11-A, Ground Floor, Afia Plaza, MCH No.10-4-3, total admeasuring 312 Sq Feets	Masab Tank, Hyderabad
22	Flat No.102, 1st Floor, GHMC No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A/A1/102, in First floor, HS Residency, admeasuring 992 Sq Feets, in Premises bearing No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A & 9-4-134/A/5/A23/1/A/1	Vali Colony, Toli Chowki, Hyderabad.
23	Flat No.101, 1st Floor, GHMC No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A/A1/101,in first floor, HS Residency, admeasuring 956 Sq Feets, in Premises bearing No.9-4-134/A/5/23/1/A & 9-4-134/A/5/A23/1/A/1	Valli Colony, Toli Chowki, Hyderabad.
24	All that the newly constructed residential building on plot No.2 in Anoors cottage, in Sy.No.3, admeasuring 298.46 Sq Yards with total built up area of 11064 Sq fts in 6 floors.	Sogbowli Village, GHMC Rajendranagar Circle, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana
25	All that the newly constructed residential building on plot No.3 in Anoors cottage, in Sy.No.3, admeasuring 237.72 Sq Yards with total built up area of 4232 Sq fts in ground,first and second floor.	Sogbowli Village, GHMC Rajendranagar Circle, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana
26	Open land admeasuring 1239 Sq Sards (out of 1452 Sq Yards) in Sy Nos. 20/1, 20/2, 20/3, 20/4, 20/5 & 20/6	Hydershahkote Village & Gram Panchayat, Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana.
27	House bearing Municipal No.2-4-66/P/43, Plot No.43/Part in Sy No.2/A admeasuring 300 Sq Yards, with total built up area of 12530 Sq Feets upto 6 floor	Sogbowli Village, GHMC Rajendranagar Circle, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana.
28	Flat No.201, 2nd Floor, Dream Residency, Plot No.27, land admeasuring 33 Sq Yards in Sy Nos.96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101 & 102	Friends colony, Puppalguda Village and Gram Panchayat, Rajendra Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana
29	Sy. No.201/E admeasuring 0.20 Guntas	Malkapur Village, Kondapur Mandal, Sangareddy District, Telangana
30	Show Room No. 04, 05 & 06 on ground floor (each having carpet area of 76.745 Sqmts and first floor having carpet area 64.356 Sq.mts	Plot bearing No. 3, Sector-15 at CBD Belapur Node, Navi Mumbai, Thane admeasuring about 5301.63 Sqmt
31	All that office space bearing no. SF-01, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/2 on 2nd floor of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 1521 sq ft (765 sq ft + 756 sq ft) & 336.50 sq ft of UDS along with two covered parking space (SF-01). measuring 300 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8-35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91 , Bangalore
32	All that office space bearing in a portion of terrace floor, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/7 o showing as the 4th floor (portion) of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 1200 sq ft & 663.95 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road, at Frazer Town, Bangalore, PID - 91-8-35
33	All that office space bearing no. SF-03, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/4 on 2nd floor of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 752 sq ft & 166.40 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8-35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91 , Bangalore, PID - 91-8-35
34	All that showroom/office space bearing no. GF + MF, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35 on ground and mezzanine floor of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 5500 sq ft & 1217 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8-35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91 , Bangalore, PID - 91-8-35
35	All that office space bearing no. TF, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/6 on the 3rd floor of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 1000 sq ft & 221.275 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8-35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91 , Bangalore, PID - 91-8-35
36	All that office space bearing a portion of NO. TF, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/6 on 3rd floor of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 1000 sq ft along with one car parking space in the basement under & An undivided share of 221.2 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8-35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91 , Bangalore, PID - 91-8-35
37	All that office space bearing a portion of NO. TF, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/6 on 3rd floor of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 1000 sq ft along with one car parking space in the basement under & An undivided share of 221.2 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8-35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91 , Bangalore, PID - 91-8-35
38	All that office space bearing a portion of NO. TF, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/6 on 3rd floor of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 1000 sq ft along with one car parking space in the basement under & An undivided share of 221.2 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8-35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91 , Bangalore, PID - 91-8-35
39	All that office space bearing NO SF-04, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/5 on 2nd floor of the commercial building known as "RICH TOPAZ" having super build up area 802 sq ft and 177.4 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8-35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91 , Bangalore, PID - 91-8-35
40	Flat No. 1402 on the 14th Floor in A-Wing admeasuring 769 Sft, DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
41	Flat No. 1401 on the 14th Floor in A-Wing admeasuring 562 Sft, DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
42	Flat No. 1403 on the 14th Floor in A-Wing admeasuring 756 Sft DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
43	Flat No. 1403 on the 14th Floor in E-Wing admeasuring 756 Sft DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
44	Flat No. 1404 on the 14th Floor in E-Wing admeasuring 524 Sft DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
45	Flat No. 1401 on the 14th Floor in B-Wing admeasuring 562 Sft DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
46	Flat No. 1402 on the 14th Floor in B-Wing admeasuring 562 Sft DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
47	Flat No. 1404 on the 14th Floor in B-Wing admeasuring 518 Sft DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
48	Flat No. 1403 on the 14th Floor in B-Wing admeasuring 522 Sft DELTA TOWER	Plot No. 1, Sector-8 (P) in Village/Site Ulwe, Navi Mumbai of 12.5% scheme
49	FLAT NO. 1404 IN "A" WING, 14TH FLOOR, admeasuring 524 sq ft DELTA TOWER	PLOT NO. 01, SECTOR 08, ULWE, NAVI MUMBAI - 410206
50	1. All that commercial built up area admeasuring 32975 sq feet (Builtup area 27565 sft out of 48422 sq ft) and 5410 sft common area in all floors along with an undivided share of land admeasuring 1190 sq yard out of 2158 sq yards 2. All that commercial built up area admeasuring 21857 sq ft. in all floors along with an undivided share of land admeasuring 800 sq yards out of 2158 sq yards 3. Built up area admeasuring 3670 Sft (Ground + 4 upper Floors) along with an Undivided share of land admeasuring 168 Sq. Yards, out of 2158 S. Yards	Kukatpally village and GHMC Circle, Balanagar Madal, RR District, Telangana
51	All that office space bearing No. SF-02, having seprate BBMP, M. No. 35/3 on 2nd floor of the commercial building known as RICH TOPAZ having super build up area 925 sq ft and 204.7 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road, at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8- 35, Bangalore in coropration ward no. 91, Bangalore
52	All that office space bearing No. FF, having separate BBMP, M. No. 35/1 on 1st floor of the commercial building known as RICH TOPAZ having super build up area 4000 sq ft and 885.1 sq ft	corporation no. 35, mosque road, situated at Frazer Town, PID - 91-8- 35, Bangalore in corporation ward no. 91,Bangalore

The above-mentioned immovable properties purported to be sold vide e-auction on 12.06.2026 as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 05.03.2025 in MA No. 2227 of 2024 in WP (Crl) No. 31 of 2020, may be inspected from 29.05.2026 to 10.06.2026 between 12 am to 5 pm (except Saturday and Sunday) with prior appointment. Contact for inspection: Shri. Gajraj Singh Thakur, Assistant Director, ED, Ph: 9428394070, email ID: ddhyzo2-ed@gov.in / adhyzo22-ed@gov.in. **Contact for auction procedure**: Abhinay Guniganti, Deputy Manager(Operations), MSTC TRO, Ph: 9831609441 / 040-23301039, email: **hydopn8@mstcindia.in** The Directorate of Enforcement will hold a pre-bid interaction in the office of Directorate of Enforcement, Hyderabad Zonal Office on 09.06.2026 between **12:30 PM to 01:30 PM** to address all the queries of the prospective buyers.

For further details visit: **https://www.mstcindia.co.in/content/Forthcoming_e_Auctions_For_All_regions.aspx**

Note: The Directorate of Enforcement reserves the right to modify/remove any property from the abovesaid list from the auction at any point of time during the auction. The Directorate of Enforcement also reserves the right to reject any bid at the auction and mere successful bid or highest bid does not guarantee acceptance of bid.

Sd/- Gajraj Singh Thakur,Assistant Director

CONTRAPUNTO

To have any chance at a good life
you have to keep saying abracadabra
even though nothing happens

– STEPHEN DUNN, poem

Language, Interrupted

CBSE's mid-session shock to Class 9 students betrays a larger, inconsiderate disposition

The CBSE circular landed mid-May. Saying that by July's start, a three-language framework would be compulsory for Class 9 students. No reason provided, none at least that would explain the tearing hurry to affected students. They are mid-session. So indefensible is the timing that it's drawn a squeak even from K Annamalai, a BJP neta who's otherwise defended the three-language policy (TLP) in the mecca of protests against it, Tamil Nadu. The Supreme Court has agreed to examine if the new policy has placed unreasonable pressure, on resources and children. The lead petition before it complains, gravely, that "mandating a compulsory subject without textbooks, trained teachers, or an assessment framework" amounts to a constitutional violation.

But it's not just a timing issue. There is a larger disconnect from the emotional reality of being young. Unlike in 1948, when the TLP idea was first mooted, today policymakers endlessly proclaim that they want "creative thinkers". But they are still designing systems that run on obedience, rather than enthusiasm. It counts for nothing if a student is enchanted by Japanese or excitedly aiming to become an engineer in Germany by learning German. Now she's got to ditch all this romance, fast, and figure out what Indian language she'll learn from scratch, to (hopefully) keep her mother tongue company. Because the new mandate is of 2 Indian languages plus 1 foreign language.

All this nonsense sits atop the original sin: Continuing to treat English as a "foreign language". This is a deep misreading of modern India, where English is not some colonial sahib overstaying his welcome. The way it's woven into the country's economy, higher education, law, technology, pop culture, and everyday aspiration, with its many local idioms and accents, it's indivisible from this land.

This land is also blessed with great diversity. For example, what are they to do in Puducherry? There, French is very much a 'native' language, shaping both historical and cultural identity. A centralised model is a poor, even counterproductive, fit across different states. Consider the most populous one. Uttar Pradesh has 9,508 single-teacher schools, where the whole TLP conversation would be farcical. Per 2004 Aser data, here only 27.9% of govt school (rural) children in Class 3 can read the Class 2 level text, and only 31.6% of them can do at least subtraction. So much work remains to be done to improve foundational literacy and numeracy. Basically, the TLP fetish will hurt both empowered and needy students. Education ministry should edit its policy, not children's dreams.

Law & Lemonade

Golden rule for good deals, judgments and juice – don't squeeze more than absolutely necessary

Jane Austen didn't say this, but it's a truth universally acknowledged…that one lemon can't make lemonade for five. No matter how hard you squeeze. Get an elephant to step on it, but it won't. Yet, we forget the limits of squeezing only too often. Look at Iran demanding damages from US, or US demanding Iran's enriched uranium. Or, India's retrospective tax that didn't net the billions govt expected, but slowed down foreign investment instead. Or, the ₹2.5L cr that SC has ordered online gaming firms to cough up. It's interesting that only ₹1.12L cr is the actual *claimed* GST evasion by these firms. The rest is penalty charged at the *maximum* permissible rate. Maximum squeeze. Question is, can an industry that never earned even ₹25,000cr in a year, pay up? What good is a fine if it can't be paid?

Maybe, Trump hasn't heard about the 8th Amendment. In 1791, America decided that excessive bail and excessive fines were plain wrong. It's a golden rule for dealmaking too – know what the other party can give, and would be willing to give. You might negotiate around the 'willing' part, but 'can' is a hard limit, the complete lemon, or the goose that lays golden eggs. Problem is, one golden egg a day can lead anyone into temptation. A few years ago, US tax authorities fined an elderly woman $3mn for not disclosing a Swiss account her father had left her. They could have fined her $10,000, the normal rate, but decided to beggar her, because the law allowed it. That was Shylock's logic, too. But true wisdom distinguishes between 'lawful' and 'just'. We don't drive pedal-to-floor all the time – it's lethal – why take maximalist positions in judging and dealmaking, or squeezing lemons?

Cockroach rising

Indian scientists are doing new research on an insect that is 320 million years old

Jug Suraiya

Indian entomologists, scientists who specialise in the study of insects, are opening new lines of research into the origins and behaviour patterns of the cockroach, of which there are 4,600 species, their habitats ranging from freezing cold to tropical climes.

The word cockroach is derived from the Spanish 'cucaracha', which in 17th-century English became cockroach. The scientific name for the order is Blattaria from the Latin blatta, a light-shunning insect.

However, recent evidence indicates that a particular variant of the species in India is not only venturing out from its shady nooks and crannies and other hiding places, but is actively seeking not just light but the limelight of media publicity.

Generally deemed to be a pestiferous nuisance by most right-thinking people, these insects are incredibly hardy and skilled in the art of survival, so much so that popular lore has it that the only species likely to outlive nuclear war, by being radiation-resistant, is the cockroach.

In homage to its tenacity for existence in the face of all odds, including pesticides, swatting with slippers, nuclear Armageddon and all, pop star Madonna famously declared: "I am like a cockroach, you just can't get rid of me."

jugular*vein*

Cockroaches are highly social insects in that they seek out other members of their species, resulting in what is known as emergent or swarm behaviour, by which the collective develops skills of survival which are greater than the sum of its individual constituents through a consensual decision-making process.

In 2007, cockroaches made their mark in the annals of space exploration when a Russian satellite carried a group of them into a twelve-day orbit around the Earth.

On her return to terra firma, a female cockroach named Nadezhda, which means Hope in Russian, produced 33 baby cockroaches – which is on the higher side of the average number ranging between 14 and 40 – who grew faster, were more energetic, and could scuttle about more rapidly than their Earth-conceived counterparts.

All of which goes to show that try as you might, there's no Earthly way to keep a good cockroach down.

Bangalored: Sidda & His Successor

Congress picked a new CM midstream to try and blunt Karnataka's anti-incumbency instincts. But that won't address deep regional inequalities. Plus, don't bet on ex-CM being politically passive

Narendar Pani

In replacing Karnataka's longest serving CM, Congress is seeking to counter a deeply entrenched trend in the state's politics. Since 1980s, no governing party in Karnataka has been re-elected. Congress, evidently, hopes Siddaramaiah will take anti-incumbency with him, allowing the party to face 2028 assembly elections with a fresh image. Whether this gamble pays off would depend not just on the immediate political fallout. It will also depend on the new govt's ability to address the underlying economic malady that causes people to reject state govts of all political types.

Congress seems keen to avoid its many past mistakes in handling such transitions. Rajiv Gandhi famously dismissed Veerendra Patil as CM, in an airport in 1990, for which act the largest caste in the state, Lingayats, have still not forgiven the party. Rahul Gandhi's demand for Siddaramaiah's resignation was done more quietly, with offers of a Rajya Sabha seat. Siddaramaiah also appeared to accept the change, but his actions were not without a hint of rebellion. He also declined the Rajya Sabha offer.

Soon after returning from the meeting with high command, he ensured the report on the caste survey was submitted. As the report demands a new formula for reservations in Karnataka, it is a ticking bomb for the next CM. It also provides Siddaramaiah a platform to return to the politics of Ahinda (a Kannada acronym for minorities, backward castes, and Dalits). As the only Congress veteran in Karnataka with a semblance of mass support, it is a move his opponents will not ignore.

Siddaramaiah's return to the mass politics of backward groups will feed on the very economic processes that have ensured state govts in the state are not re-elected. Till 1980s, Karnataka was a state where the governing party never lost. Its transition to a state where the party in office never won, was driven by Karnataka's experience with globalisation.

The communication revolution enabled Bengaluru's technical manpower to reach out to global opportunities. Together with benefits of liberalisation, Bengaluru emerged as a globally recognised centre for IT services. Multiple kitchentable-to-IT-campus stories saw the rise of global companies that led to Karnataka's emergence among the fastest growing states in the country.

The political difficulty with this success was that it was concentrated in a single district. Bengaluru's share of Karnataka's income kept growing and now accounts for 40% of the state's GSDP. With almost all other districts unable to generate broad-based growth, economic inequality became too great for politicians to ignore.

Image: AI

They responded by seeking separate economic status for their regions, with Kharge's efforts to get a separate status for northeast Karnataka leading the way. When this, too, did not work, political focus shifted to direct benefits. In his first term as CM, Siddaramaiah introduced his scheme for free rice. This was expanded to the five guarantees, in his second term. State transfers of resources to the worse-off can be politically attractive but they were not enough to bridge the sense of inequality between Bengaluru and the state's other districts. The other districts responded with their votes against state govts.

This fundamental economic problem for Karnataka's politicians has been made more difficult in recent years by two trends in the IT industry. First, the coming of AI has hit coding jobs in Bengaluru's IT industry. With IT professionals being laid off, the state's growth engine is slowing down. This hurts spending in Bengaluru and curbs the growth of the city's economy. This, in turn, impacts govt revenues, and the ability to offer welfare to the rest of the state.

Second, Bengaluru has also been affected by the larger trend of successful Indian companies investing abroad. FDI by Indians abroad increased from under $11bn in 2020-21 to over $28bn in 2024-25, and all indications are that it has grown further.

Bengaluru is no exception to this trend. Politicians who seek an image of being pro-growth, offer concessions to info-tech and biotech companies, fondly referred to as ITBT. With a significant proportion of these companies' profits invested abroad, Karnataka does not get the full economic benefit of concessions it offers.

Politicians try to make up for this economic deficit by taking pride in the success of what were once local companies, but it does not have the same political mileage as generating revenue for economic welfare.

As Siddaramaiah sets out to make political capital out of this economic reality, the next CM will have to address the gross inequality between Bengaluru and the rest of the state. The most efficient response would be to develop an economic strategy that would ensure more widespread growth. Unfortunately, the dominant economic discourse offers little in this direction.

Focus is on attracting large capital that tends to favour Bengaluru, and when it does not, it is so highly capital intensive that it has little to offer the labour available in backward regions. This will keep up the pressure for welfare measures that the state will find increasingly difficult to afford, especially if the economy slows down.

As Congress works to make its Siddaramaiah gamble a success, it'll have to address both the political challenge he is bound to throw up, as well as develop an economic strategy that goes beyond dismissing welfare measures as 'freebies'.

Are Human+AI Cowritten Novels The Future?

The genie of AI-aided or even AI-authored books is out. A literature Nobel laureate uses AI for her ideas. Dire implications for original human creativity probably won't reverse this trend

Atanu Biswas

In 2016, a Japanese AI research team-created short novel, *Konpyuta ga shosetsu wo kaku hi* (The Day a Computer Writes a Novel), nearly won the prestigious Nikkei Hoshi Shinichi Literary Award. Naturally, the judges were unaware of which entries were written by humans. Even though the story didn't receive any awards, this proved the fact that it's possible for AI to create logical and readable stories.

Then, in Sept 2020, a provocative op-ed headlined "A robot wrote this entire article. Are you scared yet, human?" appeared in *The Guardian*. It was written by OpenAI's GPT-3: "I am here to convince you not to worry. Artificial intelligence will not destroy humans. Believe me." However, humans had good reason to be scared, because the most precious human ability – creativity – was challenged.

Since then, AI development has become exponential. People are even wondering whether one day an AI-generated novel would get the Nobel Prize for literature. Although it still hasn't happened, something else shocked the literary world recently.

There were claims about AI usage by some of the winners of the 2026 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, especially the work of writer Jamir Nazir from Trinidad and Tobago. Some experts, critics, and internet sleuths found plenty of "obvious markers of AI writing" in the story, including a litany of "not x, but y" phrase constructions, which are by now a common trope.

Nazir's story was "100% AI generated," according to University of Pennsylvania professor Ethan Mollick. He compared the situation to a modern-day Turing Test. He cited an AI detector as proof.

In practice, however, it's difficult to prove the use of AI with certainty. Furthermore, AI checkers are not infallible. They might provide probabilities and raise doubts, but can't confirm. Granta, the publisher that published the story, stated that "perhaps we will never know" who wrote the work that received the Commonwealth Prize.

Notably, the dispute here, essentially, is on whether AI was used, assuming that AI's help should not be taken for authoring a book. In contrast, 2018 literature Nobel Prize winner, Polish author Olga Tokarczuk, has drawn criticism and controversy after disclosing that she used AI to generate her ideas for her forthcoming novel. However, Tokarczuk used AI only to assist with writing her novel.

Certainly, this ignites far more significant issues than Nazir's story. Many experts believe that in the age of AI, a much bigger conversation about trust, originality, and the future of human creativity would be necessary. This, however, is not new. German photographer Boris Eldagsen caused quite a stir back in 2023, when he declined his Sony World Photography Award after admitting that his winning picture was generated with AI technology. Eldagsen wanted to see if competitions were prepared for AI-generated images. As he observed, they weren't.

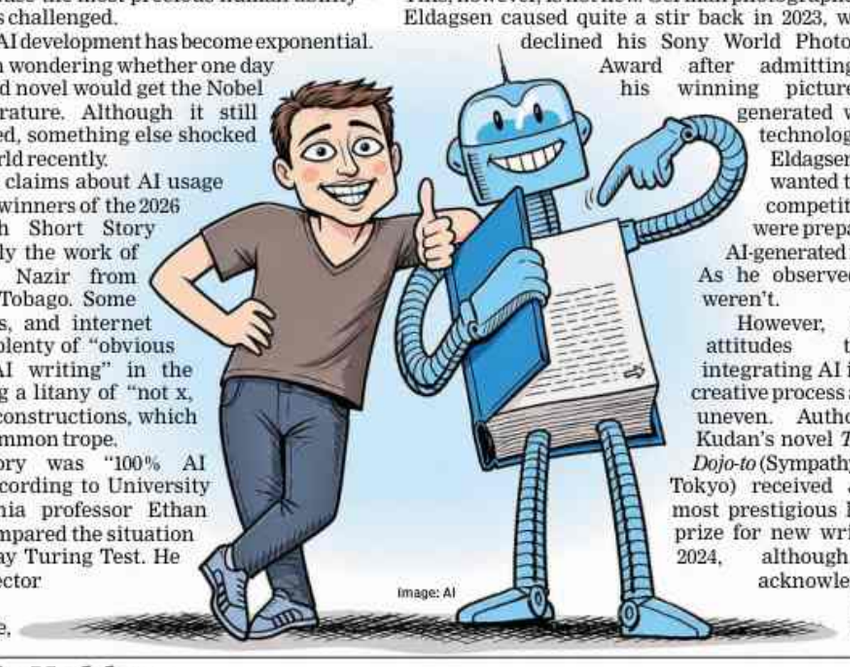


Image: AI

However, human attitudes towards integrating AI into the creative process are still uneven. Author Rie Kudan's novel *Tokyo-to Dojo-to* (Sympathy Tower Tokyo) received Japan's most prestigious literary prize for new writers in 2024, although she acknowledged that 5% of the novel – the dialogue of an "AI-built" character – was produced by an AI chatbot.

In contrast, society frequently resists AI. Due to the use of AI in their cover designs, two novels by well-known authors Stephanie Johnson and Elizabeth Smither, were disqualified from being considered for the 2025 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards Prize for Fiction. In March, the *New York Times* cut ties with a freelance journalist, who admitted using AI to write a book review. Due to concerns that *Shy Girl*, a debut horror novel, was written at least partially using AI, publisher Hachette has removed the UK version, and cancelled the US release.

Given that practically everything is becoming automated in this AI era, wouldn't it become more challenging, and ultimately pointless, to resist the applications of AI? Is it possible for humans and AI to "co-create" instead?

After the 2023 dual Hollywood strikes by actors and screenwriters, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has now made a "substantive" rule change: only acting "demonstrably performed by humans" and "human-authored" writing would be eligible to receive an Oscar. Notably, AI usage in 2024 and 2025 Oscar-nominated films concentrated on augmentation, rather than creation.

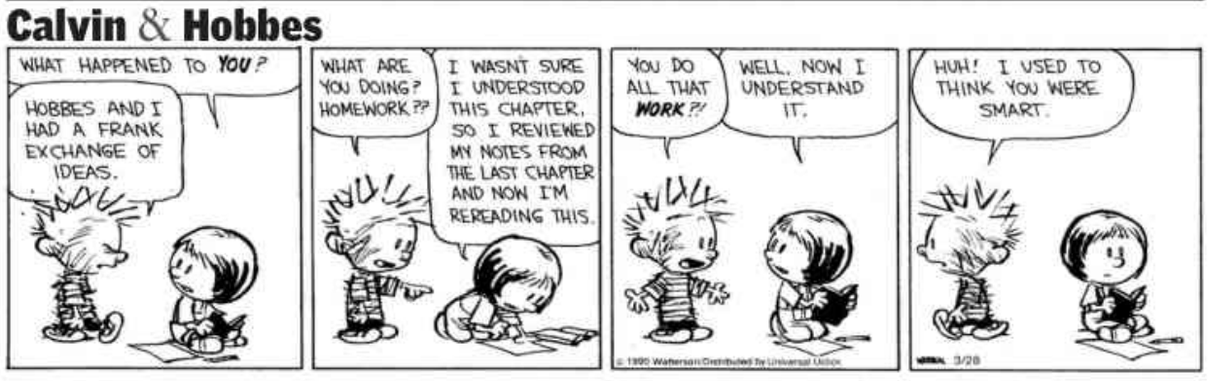
For instance, AI improved the actors' Hungarian accents in *The Brutalist*. The Academy has now stated that the uses of AI techniques outside of writing and acting "neither help nor harm the chances of achieving a nomination", but it didn't forbid its usage in films.

What is the perfect balance, then? Maybe nobody knows. Olga Tokarczuk stated, "I'm often deeply shocked by how it (AI) so fantastically broadens and deepens my creative thinking," despite the need to be cautious about hallucinations. In fact, Tokarczuk's endeavour may help establish a benchmark for future human-AI cooperation in this AI era. Despite her feeling "a poignant, very human sorrow for an era that is disappearing forever," Tokarczuk added that "perhaps a symbiotic future and cooperation with artificial intelligence will help" writers going forward.

Yet, even the near future of human-AI cooperation remains uncertain.

The writer is Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

Did you ever see an unhappy horse? Did you ever see bird that had the blues? One reason why birds and horses are not unhappy is because they are not trying to impress other birds and horses.

Dale Carnegie

The Three R's That Shape Your Life

Jaya Row

Whether you are an athlete, entrepreneur, musician, chef, or corporate leader, the urge to excel is universal. To improve performance, people usually acquire more knowledge, sharpen skills, or pursue advanced training. What if perfection lies not in the action but in something beyond the action? It is that elusive thing beyond notes that makes for a thrilling musical performance. Something apart from the stroke of a cricketer, beyond the words in a book, and something other than the ingredients in a dish! We seldom look there. And perfection eludes our grasp.

Gita says it is the attitude backing the action, the intention behind the action, that determines the quality of action. Why you are performing the action is more important than the action itself.

Most people work for salary, promotion, or profit. Work then becomes mechanical, leading to boredom, fatigue, and dissatisfaction. Find a powerful emotional motivation to work, and you are inspired. Andy Murray was motivated to win the Wimbledon title for his coach, Ivan Lendl, who had never won it in his illustrious career. Andy won it in 2013, becoming the 1st British player to win the title in 77 years.

Go a step further. In 1983, Kapil Dev wanted to win the World Cup for the country. He inspired the entire team to rise above personal issues and play for a higher ideal. It was the same team with the same skills and fitness levels. What changed was their attitude and focus. And they brought home the trophy.

Now take that mighty leap into the realm of the Spirit. Olympic champion Eric Liddell could not afford to hire a coach or nutritionist. His strength came from the powerful inner conviction: "God made me to run, and i will run for God." That made him unstoppable. He won the Olympic Gold in 1924 and created a record in the 400-metre race that stood for years.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Gita speaks of maintaining the thought of Atman through every action. It then becomes worship. Gita prescribes a technique by which every action carries you Godward while worldly activities get accomplished, perfectly. As long as you focus on the action, you remain worldly, bound. Shift your anchorage to that Power which enables every action, and you experience freedom. You break through the glass ceiling of mediocrity and enter the realm of excellence.

The law is – as you think, so you become. But it is not possible for you to worship all the time. You have your obligations and responsibilities. Gita helps you fulfil your duties while your thoughts are fixed on the Divine. It converts every mundane action to worship.

Life consists of three transactions: You receive stimuli through the senses. Your mind and intellect react to them. And you respond to them through the organs of action.

These three R's – receipts, reactions, and responses – shape your life. In chapter four, they are further divided into 12 yajnas by which you maintain focus on the Divine all the time.

Be rooted in the Divine. Then you will remain unaffected by the world's turbulence. A bird may sit on the branch of a tree, but it is totally independent of the tree. If the branch breaks, it takes off on its wings. Develop wings of spirituality.

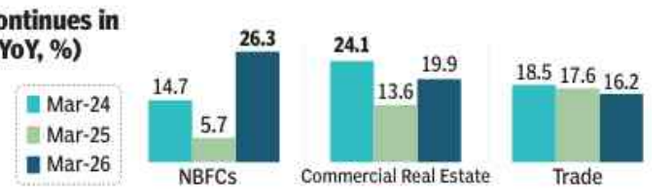
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026

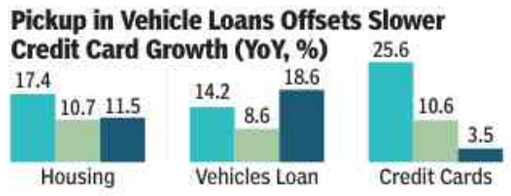
Bank lending to NBFCs witnessed strong traction in March 2026, with outstanding credit reaching ₹20.6 lakh crore, accounting for 9.7% of bank credit. Growth accelerated to 26.3% YoY - four times the figure of 5.7% recorded a year ago

Robust Momentum Continues in NBFC Credit Growth (YoY, %)

This strong momentum reflects NBFCs' shift from relatively expensive market borrowings to bank funding

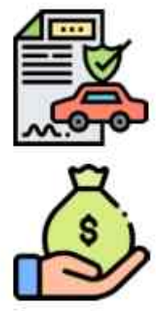


Pickup in Vehicle Loans Offsets Slower Credit Card Growth (YoY, %)



Vehicle loans grew by **18.6% YoY compared to 8.6% a year ago,** supported by improved affordability following the GST rate cut and strong consumer sentiment

Personal loans, which grew **16% YoY in March 2026, up from 12%** in the corresponding period last year, driven mainly by an increase in vehicle loans



Source: RBI, CareEdge

Now, fraudsters target dormant e-comm a/cs

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: You probably do not care much about your inactive accounts on online platforms such as Amazon or Flipkart. But do you know that your dormant e-commerce accounts are being targeted by fraudsters?

Unlike financial transactions, which usually leave a trail and are notified to users through mobile alerts or messages, suspicious transactions made through e-commerce accounts tend to go unnoticed, which is why they are easy targets for fraudsters. Your e-commerce accounts already keep details of your cards or payment methods intact and once compromised, fraudsters use them for unauthorised purchases, loyalty-point abuse, refund frauds or mule account activity, experts said.

"When you use UPI, you simbind it but that's not done for e-commerce platforms. You don't need to have an e-commerce app on your phone to use it. People can use it through a phone that belongs to a family member," said Venkat Srinivasan, chief analytics and risk officer at Bureau, an AI-powered risk decisioning platform which helps organisations prevent digital frauds.

A LARGER NET FOR CONMEN

- Unlike financial transactions which leave a trail, suspicious transactions made through e-comm accounts go unnoticed
- E-comm accounts keep details of payment methods intact; once compromised, fraudsters use them for unauthorised purchases, loyalty-point abuse, refund frauds or mule account activity
- Leaked passwords, phishing attacks, malware, sim-swap techniques used to get access
- Device farming allows criminals to target multiple accounts at the same time; dormant ones most vulnerable
- Device farming is the large-scale use of mobile devices, sim cards and automation tools to mimic genuine consumer activity online

The modus operandi

How are fraudsters getting access to your dormant accounts in the first place? They are often able to do that through leaked passwords, phishing attacks, malware or sim-swap techniques, said Capt Praveen Dahiya, founder & MD at InQuest Global. A sim-swap is a process which allows cybercriminals to get access to a victim's mobile phone number—they do this by convincing a mobile carrier to transfer the victim's number to a sim card under their control, allowing them to intercept SMS-based authentication codes and reset passwords, according to cybersecurity platform SentinelOne.

Device farming enabling large scale frauds

The frauds are being done at a large scale that too. Netflix's hit series Jamtara–sabka number aayega is now literally playing out in e-commerce. The rapid growth and consumer adoption of online commerce is giving rise to more sophisticated ways of triggering frauds—in this case, the underlying technique is often "device farming" which allows criminals to target multiple accounts at the same time.

Dormant accounts are usually more vulnerable to such fraud schemes. This is because improper account activity is not detected in time by the actual account owner and then that account becomes a target for repeat abuse, said experts.

Device farming is basically the large-scale use of mobile devices, sim cards and automation tools to mimic genuine consumer activity online. It allows fraudsters to run and control dozens, sometimes hundreds of accounts simultaneously switching between them at speeds no individual user can match.

A recent study by Bureau said that one in six risky devices on an average had more than 10 accounts associated with the same device. "Sometimes, a single device could be connected to 2,000-3,000 accounts," said Srinivasan. While abusing promo or referrals is often the entry point, the larger idea of device farming is to detect accounts with saved cards and linked wallets for direct financial fraud, Bureau said. Amazon, Flipkart and Meesho declined to comment.

Subsidy bill set to balloon on fertiliser, LPG payouts

Fertiliser Outgo May Hit ₹3.8L Cr; Cos Lose ₹700/Cylinder

Dipak Dash & Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: The Centre is staring at a massive surge in its subsidy bill during the current fiscal year as fertiliser payouts may reach Rs 3.8 lakh crore — more than twice the budgeted level — against govt's total budgeted subsidy bill of Rs 4.1 lakh crore for 2026-27.

For cooking gas too, the budgeted subsidy of Rs 12,085 crore for this year is seen to be inadequate as the Centre paid Rs 26,000 crore to oil retailers for last year. Currently, the petroleum players are losing Rs 700 on every cooking gas cylinder sold by them to households. And, the Centre has taken over Rs 1 lakh crore hit on an annual basis due to the excise duty cuts earlier in the year.

Latest numbers shared by the fertiliser department suggest that the subsidy bill for urea and other fertiliser could touch Rs 3.8 lakh crore, if the current price levels persist compared with the budgeted Rs 1.7 lakh crore for 2026-27. The department informed the informal group of ministers on Wednesday that the price of urea has increased by over 120%, following the war. Similarly, the global price of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) has shot up by 38%, sulphur by 87% and ammonia by 84%. On top of that, there is an additional cost of 6% due to rupee's depreciation against the dollar, people aware of the discussion told **TOI**.

India remains heavily import-dependent for key fertilisers such as DAP, potash and NPK. To meet the annual urea consumption of around 40 million tonnes (MTs), India imports around 8-10 MTs. In the case of DAP, about 60% domestic demand is met from imports, while India is completely dependent on imports as far as potash is concerned.

Last year, the fertiliser subsidy bill added up to around Rs 2.2 lakh crore, which was higher than the revised estimate. In 2022-23, the subsidy outgo for fertiliser hit a record Rs 2.5 lakh crore as supplies through Red Sea was impacted.

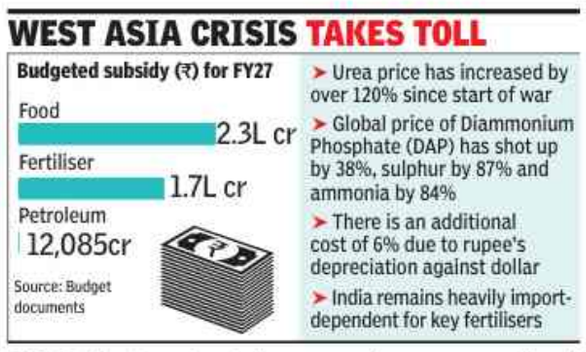
Food subsidy, budgeted at around Rs 2.3 lakh crore, may see pressure as Food Corporation of India is currently grappling with excess stock of wheat and rice will have a higher carrying cost.

By all assessments, it will take about two to three months for ship movement to normalise after the Strait of Hormuz opens and oil and gas supplies from the region will take a longer time to be fully restored.

For the Centre, which has budgeted for fiscal deficit of 4.3% of GDP, the situation remains challenging on the tax front too, if the tension persists. So far, GST collections have held firm and an early assessment on direct tax will be available once the first instalment of advance tax is paid by June 15.

A senior official said govt has so far managed to ensure supplies, but the constraints remain and will reflect in costs in the coming months in case the war persists. Higher retail prices may hit consumption, especially in segments that are non-essential.

WEST ASIA CRISIS TAKES TOLL



- Urea price has increased by over 120% since start of war
- Global price of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) has shot up by 38%, sulphur by 87% and ammonia by 84%
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- India remains heavily import-dependent for key fertilisers

Infy defends contracts amid Oz union backlash

Bendigo Staff Allege Harsh Outsourcing Terms

Shilpa.Phadnis @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Infosys has pushed back against allegations by Australian trade grouping Finance Sector Union (FSU), which described employment contracts issued to some Bendigo Bank technology employees as "draconian". The union alleged that workers' conditions would be eroded under what it called oppressive employment contracts proposed by Infosys. FSU represents a diverse group of finance, superannuation, and insurance professionals.

More than 100 employees are expected to transition to Infosys as part of the outsourcing deal between the Australian bank and the Indian IT firm. Employee transitions as part of IT outsourcing contracts are common in the industry.

Infosys said it is working with Bendigo Bank to strengthen the bank's capabilities across infrastructure, cloud, cybersecurity, and data and analytics, while simplifying the technology landscape and improving support for the communities it serves.

"As part of the engagement, certain roles will transition from Bendigo Bank to Infosys, ensuring continuity of services while reinforcing delivery capability and long-term stability. Together, we aim to build stronger delivery capabilities while continuing to put people and customers at the heart of everything we do. Infosys is an equal opportunities employer and operates in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations across the jurisdictions in which it operates," Infosys said in a statement.

While Infosys reiterated continuity of services and long-term stability, the FSU alleged that under the proposed contracts, Infosys would be able to require employees to work wherever and for whatever hours it deemed reasonable. "The contracts also allow workers' pay to go backward in the event of a pandemic, recession, calamity, or change in market conditions, while not offering any guaranteed wage increases or reviews," the union said in a statement published on its website.

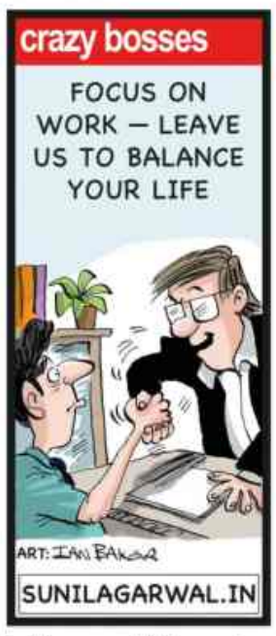
The union further alleged that Infosys could require employees to provide sensitive medical information when they are ill and could terminate employment on medical grounds.

FSU national assistant secretary Nicole McPherson said, "These draconian working conditions may pass the test in other countries where Infosys operates, but Australian workers have fought too hard over many decades to allow the clock to be turned back." Bendigo Bank serves 2.9 million customers through more than 400 branches across Australia. The bank has announced the next phase of its Productivity Program, including a seven-year technology services partnership with Infosys aimed at accelerating its Strategy 2030 goals.

The partnership is expected to strengthen Bendigo Bank's IT service delivery capabilities while providing access to Infosys' global software engineering, cloud, cybersecurity, data analytics, and AI talent to support innovation and technology transformation.

TCS partners Mistral for enterprise AI solutions

Bengaluru: TCS has entered a strategic partnership with French AI company Mistral AI, becoming the first global systems integrator partner for Mistral Forge, the company's enterprise AI platform for building frontier-grade AI models using proprietary enterprise knowledge and domain-specific data. As part of the collaboration, TCS will use Mistral Forge to build custom AI models for enterprises, enabling customers to combine their enterprise data and context to improve business decision-making. The partnership will leverage TCS' global presence across North America, the UK, Europe and Asia-Pacific. TNN



Subbarao: RBI must let rupee depreciate

Mumbai: Former RBI governor Duvvuri Subbarao has said the central bank must allow some more depreciation in the rupee to help absorb external pressures, and choose liquidity measures, rather than going for rate hikes, if inflation risks intensify. Subbarao said monetary policy should be used as a "last resort" to defend the exchange rate. AGENCIES

PolicyBazaar founders selling 0.8% in firm

Mumbai: Yashish Dahiya and Alok Bansal, the two founders of insure-tech platform PB Fintech that runs online insurance portal PolicyBazaar, are together selling 0.8% in the company for nearly Rs 660 crore. The two founders have given the mandate to Kotak Securities to execute the transaction through one or more block deals on Friday. TNN

We are evaluating strategic pathways for Jio: Ambani

Reliance Industries is taking "deliberate steps" to strengthen its digital unit, chairman Mukesh Ambani said in a note to shareholders, without sharing any updates on the planned listing of Jio Platforms that is expected to fetch as much as $4 billion.

"We will continue to evaluate strategic pathways that can broaden stakeholder participation and support Jio's long-term growth," Ambani wrote in the company's annual report released Thursday.

Investors will now be looking for cues on Jio's initial share sale when Ambani takes the dais to address Reliance's annual shareholder meeting on June 19 — a platform that Asia's second-richest person has used over the years to announce some of his most ambitious plans for the retail-to-refining conglomerate.

Reliance's plan to sell shares in Jio Platforms — potentially India's biggest-ever initial public offering — is running into a thicket of challenges exacerbated by the war in Iran.

Jio controls Reliance Jio Infocomm, the country's largest wireless services operator with over 524 million customers. Its star-studded roster of global investors includes Meta Platforms, Alphabet Inc's Google, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund and Mubadala Investment Co.

Jio IPO plans face uncertainty amid Iran war and oil-market volatility

"Jio as a managed services provider would provide its proprietary network technologies in select international markets in partnership with local operators," the annual report said. Reliance also cautioned against the continuing headwinds in its traditional oil-to-chemicals business as the US-Iran war drags on. The outlook for the year ending March 31, 2027 "remains extremely vulnerable to geopolitical, macro-economic and policy risks," the report said. While global oil demand growth will likely be sluggish due to higher oil prices and an economic slowdown amid the Middle East conflict, refinery and oil infrastructure, which have suffered damage, may take longer to recover, stoking volatility in the energy market.

The group had little over 419,000 employees as of March, including 100,000 new hires with focused recruitment in AI, data science, automation and digital transformation, the report said. BLOOMBERG

Anthropic names Sangeeta Bavi India growth head

Bengaluru: AI company Anthropic has appointed **Sangeeta Bavi** as head of digital natives, startups and growth for India.

Bavi will lead efforts to expand adoption of Anthropic's AI assistant Claude among startups and mid-sized businesses in India. Announcing the move on LinkedIn, she said working with founders has always held a "special place" for her and described the new role as "deeply meaningful." Before joining Anthropic, Bavi was chief operating officer at YourStory, where she led operational and revenue initiatives. She had earlier headed startup business efforts at Microsoft India. The appointment comes as Anthropic steps up its India expansion. India has emerged as Claude's second-largest market globally, accounting for about 7.2% of worldwide usage. TNN

India, Canada to avoid sensitive areas in trade pact talks: Goyal

New Delhi: India and Canada have decided to focus on low-hanging fruit, work on areas of convergence and avoid seeking concessions in sensitive sectors in the negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement, commerce and industry minister **Piyush Goyal** has said.

The two countries are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The third round of negotiations is underway in Ottawa. The minister was in Canada for a three-day official visit. "I remember when I was talking to Mr Maninder Sidhu (Canada's trade minister) about speeding up CEPA negotiations, one of the first elementary decisions we both took was that 'we won't make perfect the enemy of the good'.

"Let's capture the low-hanging fruit. Let's look at areas of convergence. Let's leave the sensitive things out of the agreement. If something is sensitive for Canada, no sense in trying to egg on and trying to get that into the CEPA. Likewise, if something is sensitive for India or the Indian public or Indian businesses, no sense that we break our heads trying to navigate that path," he said. while addressing the Ontario Centre of Innovation on May 27.

Under such pacts, India does not grant market access in areas such as agri-commodities and dairy. Both sides are looking at concluding the negotiations for the proposed pact by year-end. The two countries have also set a target to increase bilateral trade from the current $17 billion to $50 billion by 2030.

In such pacts, two trading partners significantly reduce and eliminate import duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. Besides, they also ease norms to promote trade in services and boost investments. Seeking investment from Canadian firms, he said India is known for protecting intellectual property. AGENCIES

IBM ramps up quantum, cybersecurity bets

IBM on Thursday unveiled technology initiatives worth more than $15 billion, ramping up investments in quantum computing and open-source cybersecurity as the US pushes to secure leadership in emerging technologies.

The company said it plans to invest more than $10 billion in quantum computing over the next five years, aiming to build by 2029 the first large-scale quantum computer capable of running complex calculations reliably and without errors. The announcement follows a Trump administration decision last week to take $2 billion equity stakes in nine quantum-computing companies. IBM is set to receive half the funding for a new venture called Anderon, which would become the first dedicated quantum-chip manufacturing facility in the US.

Recent breakthroughs in quantum computing have fueled investor interest in applications ranging from drug discovery and financial modelling to cryptography. However, major technical hurdles remain, including high error rates that limit practical use.

IBM said the investment would cover research and development, manufacturing scale-up, partnerships, and mergers and acquisitions. The company is contributing $1 billion to Anderon, which will offer chipmaking technology to outside customers and is already in talks with potential clients. IBM said it has deployed more than 90 quantum systems so far, more than all other industry players combined.

Investments span quantum systems, chipmaking and open-source software security

Open-source security push

Separately, IBM said it has committed $5 billion to Project Lightwell, an initiative aimed at improving security in open-source software using engineers and artificial intelligence tools. The platform seeks to create a "clearinghouse" for open-source security and help companies manage software supply-chain risks. Open-source software powers most corporate technology systems but has increasingly become a target for hackers, especially as AI makes it easier to identify vulnerabilities. IBM and Red Hat have piloted the initiative with companies including Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Visa. The service will launch commercially within the next 30 days, IBM senior vice-president of software Rob Thomas said. Project Lightwell will allow companies to confidentially report security flaws, receive tested fixes. REUTERS

AI coding startup Cognition raises $1bn at $26bn valuation

Fresh Funding

Cognition AI has raised more than $1 billion in a new funding round at a $26-billion valuation, underscoring strong investor demand for artificial intelligence companies focused on software development.

Venture firms Lux Capital, General Catalyst and 8VC co-led the funding round, the startup said on Wednesday. Other investors included Ribbit Capital, Atreides Management and Peter Thiel's Founders Fund. The valuation, including the fresh capital raised, has more than doubled from the company's previous funding round in Sept.

Founded in 2023, Cognition's flagship product is an AI agent called Devin, designed to automate software programming for engineers.

The startup's revenue run rate has surged to $492 million from $37 million in May last year, with the company targeting more than $1 billion later this year.

Its growth has been driven by enterprise customers including Goldman Sachs, Mercedes-Benz and several US govt agencies. OpenAI, Anthropic and other AI model developers are increasingly betting on AI coding software as a fast-growing market. Elon Musk's SpaceX last month also struck a deal for a potential $60-billion acquisition of Cursor, another AI coding startup. Scott Wu, Cognition's co-founder and chief executive officer, said the company's services complement technologies developed by larger AI labs. Cognition uses a mix of its own AI models and software from OpenAI and Anthropic, helping customers choose the best tools for specific requirements, Wu said. "As the model layer continues to heat up and get more competitive, what we see is that working with the combination of models is actually much better than having to rely on any single model," he said. Wu added that more than 90% of Cognition's internal code is now written by Devin. BLOOMBERG

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026

ART IS THE ONLY WAY TO RUN AWAY WITHOUT LEAVING HOME — TWYLA THARP

JIMMY KIMMEL CALLS PODCASTER-COMEDIAN ADAM CAROLLA HIS 'LIFE PARTNER' AT AN EVENT: 'IF THAT SOUNDS GAY, IT IS'

STEVEN SPIELBERG SPEAKS OUT AGAINST AI'S USE IN MOVIE MAKING: 'DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S ANY SUBSTITUTE FOR SOUL'

Gulf of suspicion: US and Iran said to be nearing deal even as missiles fly

Tentative Deal To Extend Ceasefire And Launch N-Talks: Report

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Just hours after the US and Iran exchanged verbal salvoes and fresh attacks in and around the Strait of Hormuz, the two sides are simultaneously reported to be inching towards a diplomatic breakthrough yet again.

According to Axios, US and Iranian negotiators have reached agreement on a draft MOU extending the fragile ceasefire and opening a 60-day negotiating window focused primarily on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for economic relief. But the proposed deal is still awaiting President Donald Trump's final approval. Trump, according to officials cited in the report, wants "a few days" to think it over.

The proposed arrangement would mark the clearest sign yet that both Washington and Tehran recognise the limits of military escalation after months of naval warfare, sanctions, air strikes and economic disruption that have rattled global energy markets and exhausted nations near and far. Under the emerging framework, the ceasefire would formally continue while unrestricted commercial shipping resumes through the Strait of Hormuz. The US navy would gradually lift its blockade operations, Iranian harassment of shipping would halt, and both sides would open talks on sanctions relief, frozen Iranian funds and humanitarian access to Iran.

The nuclear issue — the central trigger for the war — would move to the front of the agenda during the 60-day negotiating period. Iran would reportedly commit not to pursue a nuclear weapon while discussions continue over uranium enrichment, stockpiles and monitoring mechanisms. Iran has not confirmed any of these claims in the Axios report.

Yet even as diplomats edged toward a possible pause, the conflict itself showed how fragile any agreement remains. In the past 18 hours alone, US and Iranian forces exchanged new blows in the Gulf, including an Iranian attack on Kuwait.

According to US officials, Iranian forces launched attack drones toward a commercial vessel in the Strait, with US forces intercepting them. Iranian media countered that the vessel had attempted to bypass Iranian controls and accused Washington of provoking confrontation while simultaneously negotiating.

The military escalation came after President Trump again mixed threats with diplomacy in a manner that has become characteristic of the conflict. During a cabinet meeting, Trump threatened Oman — historically one of Washington's most trusted intermediaries with Tehran — warning that Muscat would "behave" or face consequences after reports emerged that Omani officials were exploring mechanisms to help administer commercial traffic through Hormuz. At the same time, Trump publicly insisted that the Strait would soon reopen fully and repeatedly suggested Iran now understood that America would maintain overwhelming military pressure indefinitely if necessary.

Iran, on its part, is betting Trump lacks the patience for prolonged conflict and mounting political costs. That may now be the war's defining calculation: not which side can win outright, but which side can absorb pain longer. Even the emerging MOU reflects that reality. It is an acknowledgment that both powers may need temporary relief from a confrontation that has disrupted global trade.

Reuters

Trump with Rubio, Hegseth and Lutnick during a cabinet meeting

Trump appears to threaten to 'blow up' Oman

The US warned Oman on Thursday not to get involved in any effort to impose a toll in the Strait of Hormuz. "Oman, in particular, should know that the US treasury will aggressively target any actors involved — directly or indirectly — in facilitating tolls for the Strait and any willing partners will be penalised," treasury secretary Scott Bessent said on X. Trump said that no single country would have control over the waterway, and appeared to threaten Oman, with which the US has decades-long military and economic ties. "It's international waters, and Oman will behave just like everybody else or we'll have to blow them up. They understand that, they'll be fine," he said on Wednesday. Oman has not mentioned the idea of joint control of the strait with Iran, with which it says it has discussed freedom of navigation. Tehran expressed solidarity with Oman after what it called "US officials' threats". REUTERS

US military accuses Iran of violation of truce after missile attacks in Kuwait

Dubai: The US military on Thursday accused Iran of violating a fragile ceasefire after Kuwait reported coming under attack following an American strike against the Islamic Republic. US Central Command said Kuwait intercepted missiles fired from Iran late on Wednesday, and military officials called the attack on one of US' top allies in the Persian Gulf an "egregious ceasefire violation."

Kuwait had earlier announced an attack on its territory, and Iran said it had retaliated for strikes earlier in the week by firing on a US base in an Gulf state it did not name. The Kuwaiti foreign ministry condemned Iran for what it called "blatant aggression."

The exchange unfolded after US officials said late Wednesday in Washington that American forces launched more strikes on Iran, shooting down four one-way attack drones that posed a threat around the Strait of Hormuz and hitting an Iranian ground-control station in Bandar Abbas that was about to launch a fifth drone. After the latest American strikes, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard acknowledged the attack around Bandar Abbas International Airport. AP

Cancer survivor US climber summits Mt Everest in record 9 hours, 55 min

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American endurance athlete and mountaineer Tyler Andrews, a 36-year-old cancer survivor, became the first non-Sherpa climber to hold Mount Everest's South Base Camp speed record after climbing from Nepal's 5,364m Base Camp to the 8,848.86m summit in 9 hrs 55 min on Thursday, completing the ascent after four failed attempts across two climbing seasons — the last less than a week ago. Andrews broke the 23-year-old benchmark of 10 hrs 56 min set by Nepali climber Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa in 2003, a record that endured through two decades of commercialised Everest expeditions.

At the age of six, Andrews was diagnosed with aplastic anaemia, a cancer that prevents the body from producing enough blood cells, and underwent rounds of chemotherapy before recovering. In recent years, he established speed records on Manaslu and Ama Dablam in Nepal, Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Aconcagua in Argentina, Ojos del Salado in Chile and Cotopaxi in Ecuador.

Andrews began the climb at 7.11pm on Wednesday, just as darkness settled over Khumbu Icefall, and stood on the summit at 5.06am on Thursday after a continuous overnight ascent through Khumbu Icefall, the Western Cwm, Lhotse Face and the 'death zone' above South Col — covering 14km and a vertical gain of 3,500m. Most climbers move slowly over four to seven days after spending weeks acclimatising between camps.

Though the record still requires formal verification from Nepal's mountain authorities, Andrews' team broadcast live GPS tracking of the climb through his social media account. "He reached Everest's peak in just 9 hours 55 minutes," his expedition leader Dawa Steven Sherpa of Asian Trekking said shortly after the summit.

Himal Gautam, an official with Nepal's tourism department, which ratifies climbing records set on Everest, told **TOI**, "Andrews and his expedition leader will brief tourism officials once they are in Kathmandu. His ascent will be verified through GPS logs, summit photographs and statements from expedition staff and Sherpa guides before the record is formally recognised."

After a failed attempt last week, Tyler acknowledged that Everest's unpredictability weighed on him more heavily than the physical challenge itself. "The thing I'm most stressed out about is that some weird little thing that has nothing to do with my fitness is gonna screw me up," he had written on Instagram. Andrews' attempt combined solo climbing with a support system. While he climbed alone on the route, Sherpa guides were posted ahead of him with oxygen cylinders. Andrews also delayed using supplementary oxygen until Camp II climbing the lower sections of the mountain without bottled support despite attempting the oxygen-assisted category.

EVEREST'S FASTEST: THE SPEED RECORDS

Tyler Andrews training near the Everest base camp in Nepal

- Tyler Andrews (2026) — 9 hrs, 55 min
- Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa (2003) — 10 hrs, 56 min
- Pemba Dorje Sherpa (2003) — 12 hrs, 45 min
- Phunjo Jhangmu Lama (2024) (Woman's record) — 14 hrs, 31 min
- Babu Chiri Sherpa (2000) — 16 hrs, 56 min
- Kazi Sherpa (1998) (No oxygen-support record) — 20 hrs, 24 min

Bibi orders army to take control of 70% of Gaza Strip

PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday he had directed Israel's military to take more of Gaza, initially by seizing 70% of the Palestinian territory, where the population is already penned into a tiny strip of land along the coast. Israel effectively controls an estimated 64% of the tiny strip.

Under an OctUS-brokered truce that has failed to halt Israeli attacks or secure Hamas' disarmament, Israeli troops were meant to withdraw to a "Yellow Line" demarcating the extent of their control. Marked on military maps, that line put Israel in control of some 53% of Gaza, with Hamas ruling the rest. It has reported that Israel has unilaterally moved the concrete blocks marking the Yellow Line on the ground deeper into Hamas-controlled territory. Maps issued by the military in March showed an even bigger restricted area that analysts say cordons off around 64% of Gaza's territory in total.

Netanyahu has repeatedly said in public remarks that the military controls more than 60% of Gaza. Speaking to a conference in a settlement in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli leader said even more of Gaza would be taken. "We were at fifty, we moved to sixty. My directive is to move to - let's go step by step," Netanyahu said on Thursday. "First of all, seventy. Let's start with that. We're pressing them (Hamas) from all sides. We'll deal with the remnants."

Netanyahu describes the territory Israel has seized in Gaza, Syria and Lebanon as "buffer zones" that can stave off potential militant attacks. Palestinians view Israel's widening Gaza buffer zone as a part of a strategy to permanently displace them, pointing to remarks from senior ministers, including defence chief Israel Katz, saying they want to encourage "voluntary migration" from Gaza. REUTERS

AFP

Female comrades mourn an Israeli soldier killed in a drone attack launched from Lebanon into northern Israel on Thursday

Israeli strike near Beirut as Lebanon says raids kill 14

Beirut: Israel's military said it launched an airstrike in the Beirut area Thursday as a Lebanese source said an apartment was hit, the second such raid since an April ceasefire announcement. After heavy strikes that Lebanese authorities said killed at least 14 people including three children on Wednesday, Israel said it "precisely struck in Beirut", without identifying the target.

Hezbollah on Thursday claimed several attacks with rockets and drones on Israeli troops in south Lebanon. On Thursday afternoon Israel's military issued another evacuation warning for swathes of Tyre and surrounding areas. AFP

Kenya approves US Ebola quarantine request as WHO chief heads to Congo

Kinshasa/Bunia: Kenya has approved a request from the US to open a quarantine facility in the East African nation for Americans exposed to Ebola, two US officials told Reuters on Thursday as the head of the WHO was travelling to the epicentre of the outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo.

Officials at Kenya's foreign and health ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment, but one of the US officials said the authorisation grants the US access to land at an air force base in Laikipia in central Kenya.

Health authorities in Congo and neighbouring countries are scrambling to contain the latest outbreak of the rare Bundibugyo strain, for which there is no vaccine or treatment. However, the outbreak, which is the third largest on record, is outpacing the world's response. The approach, which hinges on identifying and isolating potential cases to control the spread of the disease, is weeks, if not months behind the curve and the WHO has declared a public health emergency of international concern.

"Sixteen times, this country has defeated Ebola. The 17th will be no different. But we must act now, together," said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on X, ahead of flying to Congo.

Tedros is due to arrive in Kinshasa later on Thursday and will then travel to Ituri province in Congo's northeast, where the first Ebola cases were reported and the virus has been circulating for weeks.

In a bid to curb the spread, countries across the world have rolled out travel-related containment measures. The US has taken some of the strictest, saying it "cannot and will not allow" any cases of Ebola to enter the country. It temporarily banned the entry of green card holders who have been in Congo, Uganda or South Sudan in the previous 21 days.

The planned facility in Kenya is due to be staffed by members of the US Public Health Service, a uniformed branch of the department of health and human services. Kenya had been pushing for the facility to be open to all nationalities, not just US citizens.

Some Kenyans have questioned why the US would not repatriate citizens exposed to Ebola back home. REUTERS

Fire at school dormitory kills 16 students in Kenya

AP

An injured student is evacuated from Utumishi Girls School in the Gilgil area

Kenya: A fire ripped through a dormitory in a girls' boarding school in central Kenya on Thursday, killing at least 16 students, a govt official said.

Education minister Julius Ogamba said Thursday that 79 others were injured at the Utumishi Girls School, which has more than 800 students in the Gilgil area of central Kenya. Ogamba said authorities would investigate whether the school's fire safety manual had been adhered to.

Police said they were leading the rescue and emergency response efforts at the school. The govt-owned secondary school is managed and sponsored by the Kenya police service. Many of the students are the daughters of cops.

Fires at schools have been a cause of concern for Kenyan education officials, where classrooms and dormitories are often crowded, and there's usually no firefighting equipment. In 2024, 21 students burned to death in a school fire in central Kenya. AP

Italy on red alert; Portugal records hottest May day

Rome: Italy issued a red alert warning for the capital Rome on Thursday and Portugal recorded its hottest day in May as Europe struggled with a heatwave that has smashed records across the continent. Britain and France have already reported their hottest ever May days this week as a "heat dome" brought sweltering temperatures to western Europe.

The mercury peaked at 40.3°C in Portugal's central town of Mora on Wednesday, topping the previous record of 40°C from May 2001, the meteorological agency said on Thursday, warning that the heatwave had a "high likelihood" of lasting into the beginning of June.

Italy has so far been spared the highest temperatures but on Thursday officials warned people in Rome, Florence, Bologna, Brescia, and Turin to stay out of the sun. Scientists say human-driven climate change is amplifying heatwaves, droughts and floods becoming more intense. AFP

Modi greets Tarique on Eid, both hope for stronger ties

Ahsan Tasnim

New Delhi/Dhaka: PM Narendra Modi on Thursday conveyed Eid-ul-Adha greetings to Bangladesh PM **Tarique Rahman** and the people of Bangladesh, with both the prime ministers looking forward to a stronger relationship between the nations. In his reply on social media, Bangladesh PM said, "May the relations between the peoples of Bangladesh and India continue to be strengthened on the foundations of mutual respect, friendship, and goodwill."

India-Bangladesh ties, strained since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as PM in 2024, have taken a further hit with water sharing being the latest diplomatic flashpoint between the neighbours. To add, Rahman is expected to travel to Beijing next month in what would mark his first overseas visit since the formation of the new BNP govt, despite a pending invitation from Modi and Bhutan initially being chosen as the destination of his first foreign tour.

Extending greetings on Eid, PM Modi said the shared vision of Bangladesh and India as reflected in their national development goals is aimed at the mutual benefit of their peoples. "Govt of India looks forward to working closely with Govt of Bangladesh to strengthen people-centric cooperation in various domains," PM Modi said in his letter to PM Rahman.

He said Bangladesh and India share a deep-rooted bond built on shared sacrifices, cultural commonalities, and a mutual desire for peace, stability and growth. "I thank PM Modi for his very kind greetings to me and the people of Bangladesh on the joyous occasion," PM Tarique said responding to PM Modi's letter.

3 stabbed at Swiss rly station, official says 'terror attack'

Geneva: A man stabbed and wounded three people in what authorities described as an "act of terror" at the train station in the Swiss city of Winterthur on Thursday before being arrested. The attack took place shortly before 8.30am.

The suspect, who was arrested five minutes after emergency services were alerted, is a 31-year-old Swiss-Turkish dual national who lives in Winterthur, regional police chief Marius Weyermann said. He had come to authorities' attention in 2015 for distributing propaganda of Islamic State, Weyermann added.

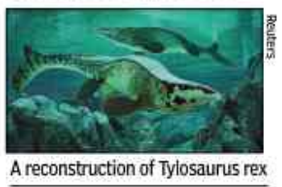
Mario Fehr, the Zurich region's top security official, described the stabbing as "an evil act of terror". Fehr said the suspect was born in Switzerland and was granted Swiss citizenship in 2009, and apparently had spent much of the last two years in Turkiye. AP

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

People seek water relief during spring heatwave in Madrid on Thursday

Fearsome marine reptile was the T. rex of the sea



Reuters

A reconstruction of Tylosaurus rex

Tyrannosaurus rex was a huge land predator during the twilight of the age of dinosaurs. But it was not the only T. rex that terrorized the Cretaceous Period. There also was a marine reptile named Tylosaurus rex - the T. rex of the sea - that rivalled its land counterpart in size and ferocity. Scientists said they have identified Tylosaurus rex as a distinct species after a wide-ranging examination of previously discovered fossils. They made the judgment based on its enormous size, fine serrations along the edges of its teeth to cut flesh more efficiently, heavy-duty musculature of the jaws and neck for subduing large prey, and certain other anatomical nuances. Roughly 66 million years ago, Tyrannosaurus rex roamed the land in western north America.

Taylor Swift concert plot suspect apologises in court

A man who admitted to plotting to attack a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna nearly two years ago told an Austrian court Thursday that he was sorry, ahead of a verdict in his trial. The concert plot was thwarted, but Austrian authorities still cancelled Swift's three performances in Aug 2024. The defendant, a 21-year-old Austrian citizen known only as Beran A., could face up to 20 years in prison.

France parl votes to repeal slavery-era Black Code

For nearly two centuries after France abolished slavery, the colonial-era law that classified humans as property has remained quietly on its books. On Thursday, the lower house of parliament voted to wipe it from French law. The national assembly voted 254-0 to adopt a bill repealing the Code Noir, the 1685 decree King Louis XIV signed to govern slaves across France's colonies.

'Guatemala agrees to joint strikes with US against drug gangs'

Guatemala has agreed to carry out joint strikes with the US military inside its territory to target drug trafficking groups, the NYT reported on Thursday, citing three people familiar with the talks. The US defence department intends to also press Honduras to accept joint military action, the report said, adding the Trump administration is targeting the two countries to pressure Mexico into accepting joint counter-drug operations. The embassies of Guatemala and Honduras in US are yet to comment. REUTERS

Viral fame spares 'Donald Trump' buffalo from Eid sacrifice in B'desh

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: "Donald Trump" has been spared — the Eid sacrificial buffalo named after the US president — once destined for slaughter on Thursday — will now be "preserved" and "cared for" at the national zoo in Dhaka, after a last-minute intervention by the Tarique Rahman-led Bangladesh govt, reportedly following a "request" from the US embassy.

Though the US Embassy has not issued any comment, a source said there was a "request" and it was respected by govt. "The decision, at the last moment, was taken to spare the buffalo from sacrifice due to security concerns and the unusual level of public interest," a ministry official said.

The 700-kg rare albino buffalo — which earned the moniker for its distinctive blond tuft, making it the subject of memes and intense public discussion on social media — is now in govt custody, according to home ministry officials. Home minister Salahuddin ahmed ordered the buffalo be spared, the owner refunded, and the animal moved to the national zoo in Dhaka.

What was initially just another Eid purchase soon captured nationwide attention after videos of the buffalo spread across social media. Visitors poured into the farm from across the country, eager to see its signature blond fringe and surprisingly calm personality.

"The name came from my younger brother, who spotted the resemblance," owner Ziauddin Mridha said.

"The buffalo is a rare breed...it went viral on social media as it was nicknamed 'Donald Trump'. It is now at a farm and may later be kept at a zoo," he said.

Reuters

LUCK BY CHANCE: The buffalo will be now 'cared for' at the national zoo in Dhaka, after a last-minute intervention by the Bangladesh govt, reportedly following a 'request' from the US embassy

"I FEEL JOFRA IS ONE OF THE BEST, IF NOT THE BEST IN WORLD CRICKET. WHEN HE IS BOWLING AT 150 CLICKS, YOU DO NOT ASK HIM TO BOWL SLOW. YOU DO NOT ASK HIM TO DO ANYTHING. YOU JUST REMIND HIM IF HE NEEDS ANY REMINDING AT ALL."
—Riyan Parag | RR skipper on Jofra Archer

BOY WONDER vs METHOD MEN

With Place In Final At Stake, Titans Bowlers Will Hope To Keep Sooryavanshi In Check In Qualifier 2 Today

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

Nitin Sharma

THE PLOT THICKENS! GT head coach Ashish Nehra (in hat) with Washington Sundar (left), Sai Kishore (second from left) and Prasidh Krishna in New Chandigarh

New Chandigarh: The last time Mohammed Siraj ran in at Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the contest lasted only a couple of overs, but still captured the mood of this IPL season. After being swatted for six in the first over, and then hit for three boundaries in Siraj's second, the Gujarat Titans pacer banged one in short and hostile and eventually had the 15-year-old undone.

In the same innings, Kagiso Rabada too discovered that reputation and pace can mean little to a teenager who bats as if consequences are someone else's problem. On Friday night at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Stadium here, that duel returns with far greater stakes attached.

Qualifier 2 between Rajasthan Royals and Gujarat Titans is not merely a fight for a place in the final. It also brings together a polished, system-driven bowling unit and a young batter who has altered the emotional tempo of this tournament, one swing at a time.

Gujarat Titans arrive bruised after Royal Challengers Bengaluru dismantled their highly-rated bowling attack in Qualifier 1. For much of the season, GT's fast bowlers have operated like a well-drilled unit — Siraj with his skiddy aggression, Rabada with bursts of hostility and Prasidh Krishna extracting awkward bounce. Together, they have built GT's campaign on discipline rather than spectacle.

But Sooryavanshi does not appear particularly interested in discipline. His astonishing 97 off 29 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Eliminator felt less like an innings and more like a passage of play unfolding at double speed. Even Pat Cummins was dragged into the rush, and every over carried danger for the bowler.

GT, on the other hand, remain structurally dependent on consistency. Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan build innings with precision, Jos Buttler supplies acceleration and their bowlers usually squeeze opponents into errors. It is cricket played with method rather than chaos. The challenge for them is obvious. If Sooryavanshi survives the opening exchanges, the geometry of the game changes rapidly.

And yet, Gujarat will believe they have found some clues. The teenager's occasional discomfort against the short ball remains one of the few visible points of attack in an otherwise intimidating batting profile. Siraj exploited it once; others have tried through the tournament. The question is whether GT can persist with that plan without allowing Sooryavanshi room to free his arms square of the wicket.

GT assistant coach Parthiv Patel was careful not to reveal tactical specifics but acknowledged the scale of the challenge. "I'm very excited about the way he (Sooryavanshi) is batting. Hopefully, we will be able to get him out early," he added.

Rajasthan Royals, increasingly, are being powered by two forces — Sooryavanshi's hitting at the top and Jofra Archer's pace with the ball. Yashasvi Jaiswal's contributions, meanwhile, have almost slipped behind the glare created by his teenage opening partner.

Parthiv defended that approach strongly despite criticism following their heavy loss to RCB. "We know what kind of cricket we want to play," he said. "We trust in our ability. We know what we can do. Since GT's inception, four out of five years, we have qualified (for the playoffs). The results are there for everyone to see."

WEATHER

32°C

NUMBERS GAME

1 Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is the only batter to have scored 600+ runs at a strike rate of 200+ in a T20 series/tournament — his tally being 680 runs, (ave 45.33), including a hundred and four fifties in 15 innings at a strike rate of 242.85.

101 Sooryavanshi's knock off 38 balls for RR in Jaipur on April 28, 2025 is the only hundred in matches involving GT and RR.

4/41 Ravi Bishnoi's only four-wicket haul in the IPL was for RR vs GT in Ahmedabad on April 4, 2026.

4/33 Rashid Khan's figures for Gujarat Titans in Jaipur on May 9, 2026 are the best by a Gujarat bowler vs Rajasthan Royals.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

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Archer rediscovers life in the fast lane

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Chandigarh: Eight years after his IPL debut, and after repeated injury interruptions, Rajasthan Royals' Jofra Archer has returned to the thing he does best: bowl fast and hit the stumps.

This is not just another good season for Archer. It is the closest the IPL has seen to his best version in years: sharp pace, awkward bounce and the sense that he can still change a game in one burst.

This IPL season, Archer has found rhythm, form and, most importantly, fitness. His three-wicket spell in the Eliminator cut through Sunrisers Hyderabad's top order, removing Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head and Ishan Kishan in the Powerplay.

It was the defining bowling performance of the chase, and another reminder that Archer is operating at a level the Royals had hoped for when they brought him back for Rs 12.5 cr at the auction.

The numbers tell part of the story. After an inconsistent 2025 season, Archer has become the strike bowler RR wanted. He has been touching 150kph regularly, the kind of pace that once made him one of the most difficult fast bowlers to line up before elbow injuries, stress fractures and repeated layoffs disrupted his career. The manner of his celebrations also indicates he is back to enjoying his cricket.

On Wednesday, Archer produced a decisive new-ball spell to remove SRH's big three: Sharma for a duck, Head for 17 and Kishan for 33. It was a spell that left Hyderabad chasing the game almost from the start. "Apart from the figures (he gave away 58 off his four), I thought I bowled all right," Archer said. "Usually the team that gets most wickets in the Powerplay wins, and we did that. Bowling to the SRH top order, you have to hold your nerve. Your good balls and bad balls are going to the boundary, so you have to hang in there," he added.

James Franklin, part of the SRH coaching setup, identified precisely what made Archer a differentiating factor. "He's got speed and he's got bounce," Franklin said. "He can get the ball to move in the air and off the pitch as well. He still went for runs but he got three massive wickets."

Magic of Sooryavanshi: No fear, no baggage, no hesitation

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PTI

AUDACIOUS: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

New Chandigarh: Pat Cummins had a plan. He's Pat Cummins, multiple World Cup winner, one of the shrewdest operators the game has produced, a man who has spent a career thinking two steps ahead. Before the IPL Eliminator, he would have sat in meetings, reviewed footage and drawn margins around what he could and couldn't do.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi walked out at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Stadium here on Wednesday evening and turned Cummins's plans, and SRH's entire bowling attack, into something resembling a video game simulation.

Twenty-nine balls, 97 runs, 12 sixes. A strike rate of 334.48. Sooryavanshi batted like he had never been told what is impossible. That, perhaps, is the most startling thing about him. Not the 97 off 29, not the 12 sixes, not even the audacity of taking on Cummins as if he were a club bowler serving gentle throwdowns. The complete absence of baggage in his batting is a highlight. No hesitation. No inherited fear. No reverence once the bowler starts running in.

Fifteen-year-olds are supposed to be intimidated by packed stadiums and elite fast bowling. They are supposed to survive tournaments, not dominate them. Sooryavanshi, meanwhile, has made 680 runs at a strike rate touching 243 and broken Chris Gayle's record for most sixes in an IPL season. His Rajasthan Royals teammate Dhruv Jurel put it perfectly, saying, "When we go to an academy, we're told, 'don't watch the bowler, watch the ball'. As 17-year-olds, we always watch the bowler. But really, Sooryavanshi just watches the ball. That's all. His mantra is 'I don't give a damn about any bowler'. He just wants to play the ball."

Names like Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Josh Hazlewood, Kagiso Rabada and Pat Cummins, to Sooryavanshi, are simply men running towards him with a ball. Their reputations are irrelevant.

"The best thing about Vaibhav that I have noticed is that he doesn't plan anything because he practices a lot and he always backs himself. That's what he does every time he goes out and plays. He doesn't even have a shadow of doubt that 'I am not able to do it'," Jurel added.

James Franklin, SRH's assistant coach, said, "I don't think anyone's ever seen a talent like this. It's freakish what he is doing at the moment. To think that he has potentially got 25 years left in a career is quite scary. And he is only going to get better," Franklin said.

When Sooryavanshi was asked about his 97 — about falling three runs short of what would have been the fastest century in IPL history — he was entirely unbothered. "My only focus was on contributing as much as I could because centuries will keep happening. Right now the focus is on how to win the trophy," he said.

Interestingly, Royals skipper Riyan Parag underlined the management philosophy for Sooryavanshi: do nothing, leave him alone and let him have fun. "We don't have any conversations," Parag said. "He likes batting, so we get him a lot of batting practice at the nets and stuff like that. And then he goes out and does his thing."

India has a habit of turning gifted teenagers into national obsessions before they have learned how to breathe between innings. The noise will only grow louder after this IPL. Maybe, the real task for the stakeholders of Indian cricket is to preserve Sooryavanshi's unburdened approach to the game.

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SINNER WILTS IN PARIS HEAT

Italian No. 1 Cites Lack Of Energy For Second Round Defeat To Cerundolo

THE TIMES OF INDIA AT ROLAND GARROS

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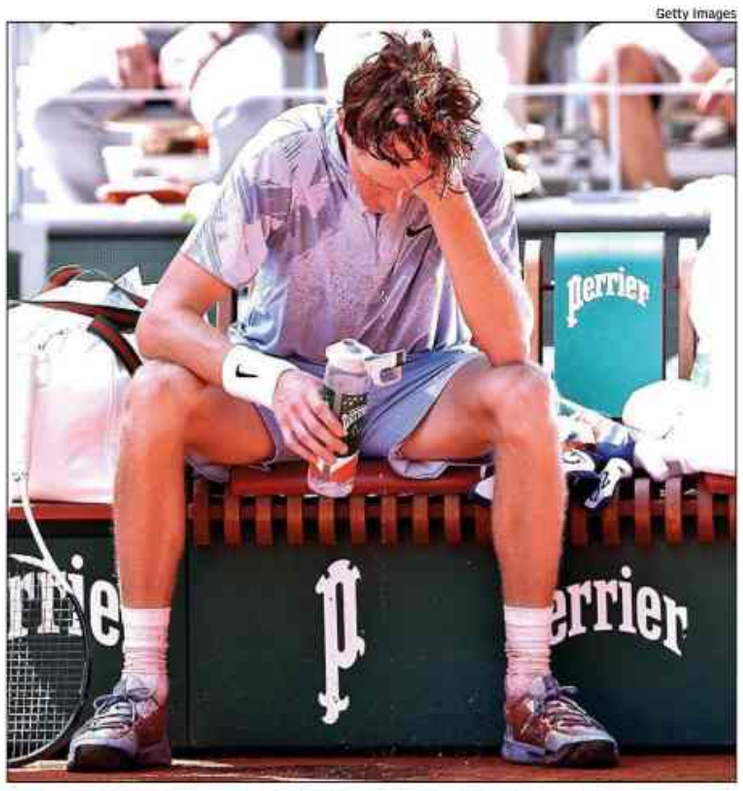
Getty Images



MELTING POINT: Jannik Sinner cools himself during a break on Thursday

Paris: The heat wave that has left Paris gasping this week continues to wreak havoc. Desperate for relief from the punishing temperatures, people plunged into the Canal Saint-Martin while others lingered along the Seine deep into the evening. At Roland Garros, world No. 1 Jannik Sinner wilted in the heat, the Italian labouring on the brink of victory as the final step proved too much at the French Open.

Sinner arrived for the second-round clash on a 30-match winning streak that had delivered a historic run of five consecutive Masters titles, from Indian Wells in March through to Rome last week. Chasing a career Grand Slam in Paris, the 24-year-old appeared in control against Juan Manuel Cerundolo, leading 6-3, 6-2, 5-1 before his energy levels dropped alarmingly and the 56th ranked Argentine claimed a 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1 victory.

Sinner, who appeared to be cramping, complained of dizziness and took an off-court medical timeout at 5-4, 0-40 after losing 15 consecutive points. The eight-minute break failed to revive him. At nearly every pause in play, between points and games, he bent over at the back of the court, struggling to recover. Cerundolo won 18 of the final 20 games to end Sinner's Roland Garros campaign.

"I was feeling dizzy. I tried to serve it out, but didn't have a lot of energy," said Sinner, who arrived for his post-match press conference an hour after leaving the court. "Fourth set, I let it go a little bit, trying to have a bit more energy in the fifth. The first game of the fifth set was a very important game, I couldn't hold," he added. He looked in control in the third set, powering to a 4-0 lead and earning two break points on Cerundolo's serve in the fifth game before his level dropped dramatically. Sinner held serve to 15 in the following game, but from that point won only two more games for the remainder of the match.

"Even though I was playing some great tennis, I really couldn't find any energy today. It was a tough spot to be in," a dazed Sinner said. "It was warm, but not crazy warm. I feel like it was okay to play. Really, it was nothing against the heat, nothing against the weather. It was just me today."

"I don't remember the last time I felt this weak," the world No.1 rued. Sinner's match was the first men's contest in three years to be given the opening slot on Court Philippe-Chatrier. When play began, temperatures had already climbed to 29 degrees Celsius, and by the time the match ended, three hours and 36 minutes later, the mercury had risen to 31. "I think, in general, many things come together. I played a lot, I didn't have a lot of time to recover," he said. "I didn't sleep very well. This morning when I woke up, I was struggling a bit."

At the Australian Open this year, Sinner suffered a similar issue in his third-round clash against Eliot Spizzirri when he appeared to have hit the wall, but the tournament's heat rule came into play and the roof was rolled over the Rod Laver Arena. "Australia was very, very warm," he said. "It's different when you play on hard court, because the heat also comes from underneath. Here it was warm, but it was not like I was dying because of the heat."

Sinner and Alcaraz have shared the past nine Grand Slam titles between them, establishing a firm grip on men's tennis. But with Sinner eliminated from Roland Garros and Alcaraz sidelined by a wrist injury, the door is suddenly open for a new champion to emerge for the first time since the 2024 Australian Open. Across the grounds from where Sinner's campaign unravelled, 17-year-old Frenchman Moise Kouame produced a breakthrough of his own. Playing in the main draw of a Grand Slam for the first time, Kouame defeated Paraguay's Adolfo Daniel Vallejo, 22, 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 2-6, 7-6 (8) in a gripping contest on Court Suzanne-Lenglen.

YUKI ADVANCES IN MIXED DOUBLES

India's Yuki Bhambri and Russia's Alexandra Panova moved into the second round of the mixed doubles, putting out Ukraine's Lyudmyla Kichenok and Dutchman David Pal 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5). Meanwhile, in the men's doubles, alternates Anirudh Chandrasekar and Japan's Takeru Yazuki went down in a tight contest 3-6, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) to Swiss Jakub Paul and Briton Marcus Willis in the first round.

'As a leader, Patidar has absorbed pressure well'

RCB Batting Coach & Mentor Dinesh Karthik Talks To TOI About How The Defending Champions Planned Their Season...

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RCB

WILLOW TALK: Devdutt Padikkal (left) with Dinesh Karthik

Bengaluru: From being one of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's most dependable finishers to becoming a key figure in the backroom setup of the IPL defending champions, Dinesh Karthik has witnessed the franchise's evolution from close quarters.

In a freewheeling interview with TOI, the 40-year-old RCB mentor and batting coach spoke about the champions' mindset within the squad, the emergence of captain Rajat Patidar as a calm leader, and coaching international stars. *Excerpts:*

Evolution of Rajat Patidar as a captain

It's been heartwarming to see him remain the same person: cool, calm, and relaxed on and off the field. As a leader, he's absorbed pressure well without showing it, which is commendable. He's still the person he was before becoming captain, which says a lot about him. I've played with him and have a good relationship with him. Seeing him succeed as both a batter and skipper makes me very proud.

TIMES SPECIAL

The mindset of a team defending the title

At the outset, a structure was given to each player outlining what they should be doing. In terms of results, there were bound to be ups and downs, so the key was to make sure we did the things we were good at very well and the things we could get better at. We are constantly addressing it and getting better at it, and that is a good way to look at this tournament. It is a long tournament, and it is important to stay fresh.

The coming of age of Devdutt Padikkal

He was always an extraordinary batter for Karnataka and across formats. But in IPL, I think he wanted to change certain areas of his game, which he addressed straight away, and we were happy enough to help as a group and you can see the results on the field, the confidence and the way he is batting. It's always a good sign when a young boy like that understands what it takes to take his game to the next level and asks for suggestions and opinions, but he does it his own way. He's a strong man. I believe he's a superb talent and it's great to see that talent evolving into something very special for the team.

On the difference between coaching Indian and international players

You have to adapt to international players differently. For example, Tim David is very different from Romario Shepherd, so you need to understand both and where they are coming from. They are very independent people, so you need to see what works for them, and sometimes less could be more, and I try and say very little if I am not required to do a lot of the talking. I have learned a lot from Andy (Flower) and Mo (Bobat) about how they handle different players and about their character traits. They are very different from the ones I have with the Indian players, but one steeped in respect.

On being rated among the best coaches by Phil Salt

Phil has obviously travelled the world and has worked with many coaches. It was nice to see him acknowledge that something I said helped him. My role was to understand what Phil was doing and help him enhance his game. He was open to discussing areas for improvement, which empowered me to provide useful feedback. Such open relationships with foreign players are always rewarding. The conversations you have with players on the bench. Being in the IPL's top 11 or 12 doesn't define you as a player. It's about team combinations; if you're not in, it doesn't diminish your value. Avoid overthinking your selection status.

On grooming the finishers

The finisher role is a niche role. It is a tough one because you end up not facing as many deliveries as the top order batters. So, you have to understand what it means to do well and accept certain ways in which you could get out. That is very important for being a good finisher because you are taking a high risk a lot of the time for a majority of the innings that you play. So you need to be very aware of what success means, being a finisher and at times how failures can actually be quite misleading. The challenge is to understand and treat them both equally. Also, the way you practice and get ready for a game is extremely important.

'Need overhaul of electoral college'

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Pune: Emphasising on an urgent need for a complete overhaul of the "electoral college" in the All India Tennis Association (AITA), Davis Cupper Purav Raja said the players' sole demand was for a "more accountable, transparent" national governing body.

Raja, a two-time doubles titlist on ATP Tour, and Somdev Devvarman, a double Asian Games gold medallist, had filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court against the AITA elections held in 2024. The court in April, while disposing of the case, allowed the new set of office-bearers to take charge but also appointed an administrator, Justice Gita Mittal, with a mandate to amend AITA's constitution in line with the National Sports Governance Act (2025) and conduct fresh elections. The AITA, following a meeting of its Executive Committee in Delhi earlier this week, has filed an appeal against the order. It is expected to be heard on Friday.

The AITA had earlier issued a statement welcoming the court order. Raja said he had faith in the judicial system to bring about the necessary change in AITA. "Even by their own admission, the elections are illegal in terms of (breach of) age and term (limits)... and how they're going to clean up the system," he said. "The electoral college needs to change. This includes the entire association, the districts, the states."

Justice Mittal held an online meeting with the players on Sunday. "The same people who I was talking to when I was under-10 and were in administration, are the exact same people I'm talking to when I'm 40 years old," Raja said.

TENNIS

Sindhu, Lakshya reach quarters

Sat-Chi Also Advance; Prannoy Knocked Out

TOI

CRUISE MODE: PV Sindhu

Singapore: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the quarterfinals with contrasting wins, while HS Prannoy bowed out after paying the price for a string of errors in the closing stages of the Singapore Open here on Thursday.

Sindhu, a former world champion, took just 37 minutes to get the better of Riko Gunji of Japan 21-9, 21-12 in her second round match.

But a stern test awaits Sindhu as she is pitted against top seed An Se Young of Korea in the round of last eight. Sindhu has never beaten the Olympic champion but lost eight times with the last defeat being at the China Open last year. Lakshya Sen, a 2021 world championship bronze winner, also progressed to the quarterfinals after second seed Kunlavut Viditsarn, an opponent against whom he had a 4-8 record, retired after just two points due to a back problem. The Almora shuttler will now take on Japan's Koki Watanabe next.

The fourth seeded Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, however, had to sweat it out to progress to the quarterfinals, beating Chinese Taipei duo of Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan 21-15, 11-21, 21-18 in a contest that lasted exactly an hour. Satwik and Chirag, the Asian Games champions, will next face Malaysia's Khai Xing Kang and Aaron Tai.

The Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto too progressed to the quarterfinals, beating Japanese combination of Yuta Watanabe and Maya Taguchi 8-21, 21-17, 21-16.

Prannoy, however, was left to rue a dramatic collapse in the decider as he went down 18-21, 21-16, 15-21 to home favourite Loh Kean Yew in a 61-minute contest. The 33-year-old Indian looked in control after opening up a 14-11 lead in the third game, but a sudden rush of unforced errors, mostly at the net, allowed Loh to win 10 of the next 11 points and seal the match. PTI

BADMINTON

Sakshi ends 7th in 10m Air Rifle

Sakshi Padekar finished seventh in the 10m Air Rifle women's final on day three of the ISSF World Cup in Munich on Thursday. The 22-year-old from Maharashtra qualified for the finals in third place after shooting 635.1, only behind World No. 1 Wang Zifei of China and Paris Olympics champion Hyojin Ban of South Korea. AGENCIES

Siddharth retires, turns to coaching

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TOI

Bengaluru: The early 2010s witnessed the rise of a talented generation of Karnataka batters. From age-group cricket to the KSCA leagues, they grew together, competed fiercely and pushed each other in pursuit of the coveted Karnataka senior cap. While Mayank Agarwal, Karun Nair, R Samarth and Shreyas Gopal broke into the senior side within a short span of each other, another batter — KV Siddharth — kept piling on runs in the KSCA leagues while waiting patiently for his opportunity.

That chance finally arrived in the 2018-19 Ranji Trophy season when Siddharth, then 25, earned his Karnataka debut against Vidarbha. The start was modest, scores of 19 and 16, but the right-hander quickly announced himself in the next high-pressure fixture against Mumbai with a magnificent 166 in Belagavi.

Nearly eight years later, Siddharth has decided to call time on his domestic playing career. Though his numbers may not appear extensive — 31 first-class matches (20 for Karnataka), 28 List A games and 15 T20 appearances across Karnataka and Goa — Siddharth's impact on Karnataka cricket was significant.

Siddharth, who combined elegance with endurance, was Karnataka's highest rungetter (728 runs) in his debut season. Soft-spoken and team-oriented, Siddharth was widely respected within the dressing room for always placing the team's needs above personal milestones. However, intense competition and a couple of untimely injuries meant his opportunities gradually reduced before he eventually moved to Goa.

In his heartfelt social media post on Thursday, Siddharth stated: "Walking away from cricket isn't easy, because the game has been such a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember. I've had the privilege of representing Karnataka in all age groups, leading teams, winning championships, making memories, and most importantly, making friendships that will stay with me forever." "Now it is time to give back to the sport that gave me everything,' he added.

Recently, Siddharth transitioned into coaching, starting with the KSCA Academy camps in Mysuru. Now, he is preparing to make his franchise cricket debut as a coach at the Maharaja Trophy, starting next month. "I had the option of representing northeast teams in domestic cricket, but I was excited about coaching, and I'm looking forward to sharing my cricket knowledge and experience to inspire others," said Siddharth.

CRICKET

Vinesh row: WFI moves SC

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has moved the Supreme Court, challenging the Delhi HC order that allowed Vinesh Phogat to participate in the Asiad selection trials, scheduled to be held on Saturday. In its Special Leave Petition, the WFI termed the HC order dated May 22 as "ex facie illegal" and argued that the federation was not given adequate opportunity to file a detailed reply before directions were issued. PTI

SNAP SHOTS

Karnataka boys in final

Karnataka boys registered an 83-68 win over Chandigarh 83-68 to storm into the final of the Junior national basketball championship in Puducherry. In the final, they will take on Haryana. But the girls' team went down fighting. Chhattisgarh edged past a gritty Karnataka 67-62.

Results (semis): Boys: Karnataka 83 (Samarth Mannur 16, Aditya Shenoy 16, Harshan Yathish 16 Vaibhav Gowda 15, Vijendra 12) bt Chandigarh 68 (Tushar 21, Ajay 15) HT: 41-30; **Girls:** Chhattisgarh 67 (Divya Rangari 27, Rumi Konwar 10) bt Karnataka 62 (Shravani Shivanna 16, Nidhi Umesh 14, Nireesha B C 10). HT: 24:31.

DYES Kudige win: DYES, Kudige beat Hoysala Hockey Academy, Bengaluru 8-1 in the Hockey Karnataka sub-junior women's tournament in Bengaluru on Thursday. **Results:** DYES Kudige 8 (Yashika KK 3, 6, 13, Nishma 15, 18, Kousthuba SN 29, Sinchana KP 43, BS Deechamma 45) bt Hoysala Hockey Academy, Bengaluru 1 (Sinchana 41); Hockey Belgaum 7 (Sayali 1, 19, Vijayalaxmi 6, Preeti 9, 18, Savani 23, Sanika 31) bt DYES Haveri 0.

Rangers cruise: Rangers FC claimed a 5-0 win over Chinnappa Garden FC in the BDFA 'C' division football league championships on Thursday. **Results:** Bangalore Blues 0 drew with RB1 FC 0; Rangers FC 5 (Shawn 15, 36, Milan Rai 20, 31, Ratnasila Dewan 39) bt Chinnappa Garden FC 0; Bangalore Wanderers FC 0 drew with Indiranagar FC 0; Gouthama FC 1 (Hemanth 19) bt Maharaja Socials FC 0; Jai Bharath Nagar FC 4 (Shreyas 4, Vinayaka Savalagi 13, 45, Manoj Kumar 60) bt Bangalore Reds FC 0; Sporting Youth FC 4 (Gagan 6-pen, 20, Edwin 10, Santhosh 52) bt ITC FC 1 (Jai Kumar 19).

Honest Pragg extends Carlsen's misery

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Oslo (Norway): R Praggnanandhaa scored a three-pointer against world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen. Make that four. One extra point for honesty.

Despite scoring a second win in classical chess in the Norwegian's own backyard on Wednesday in the third round of the elite event, Pragg chose not to rate the win very highly.

"I managed to surprise him in the Sicilian Najdorf," said Pragg, who had beaten Carlsen here two years ago for his maiden classical win against the legend. "I had the initiative. Then I thought I was busted. We both were not in control of things. And in mutual time trouble, he blundered."

That candid analysis showed Pragg's ambition to outplay the five-time world champion but at once not be satisfied with a partly gifted win, nor take undue credit for the same.

Carlsen, playing black, burnt 15 minutes for his seventh move (h6 against h4) explaining in a confessional box that there were about 15 playable moves for him at that point. The 35-year-old then gave away a rook for the knight against the 20-year-old for better queen activity. Carlsen eventually got his pawn breaks in the 'g' and 'h' files. Pragg's dubious 37th move (Nd6) gave his rival an upper hand in the double rook, knight, bishop vs double knight, rook, bishop endgame. Carlsen also had two extra pawns (5 vs Pragg's 3). "There were just crazy complications and tactics," said Pragg.

Carlsen not only failed to find the strongest winning continuation (choosing to give away his rook instead of playing Bc6 on the 39th turn), but also found a series of below-par moves even when Pragg was not at his best in the climatic stage of the game.

Carlsen was upset with himself that he resigned without waiting to see if Pragg made the winning move or blundered. As the Norwegian leaned on the adjoining table, his shaking legs and neck underlined his disenchantment with his performance. (The journalist is in Oslo on the invitation of Norway Chess)

CHESS

Chethan Shivakumar

WINNING LEAP: Rajasthan's Mahendra Gurjar in action

Parveen bags gold

Bengaluru: Parveen Kumar of Haryana emerged as one of the standout performers on the final day of the Indian Open Para Athletics Championships here on Thursday.

Kumar won the gold in men's F57 javelin throw after surpassing his own previous best of 43.11m with a massive throw of 45.02m to clinch the gold medal.

Hem Chandra of Uttarakhand (42.6m) won silver ahead of Balasubramanian Arulraj (40.62m) of Tamil Nadu. In the men's T37 200m sprint, Rakesh Bhai Bhatt of Gujarat stormed to the gold, clocking 23.44s. Navdeep of Haryana secured the silver in 25.06 seconds after edging past Swastik Sahoo of Odisha, who finished third in 25.61 seconds. Another impressive performance came from Mahendra Gurjar in men's long jump. He leapt 5.74 metres to win the gold in the T/F 42 class. TNN

— Jia Khosla

Chethan Shivakumar

Rajajinagar Cricketers celebrate their title win on Thursday

Rajajinagar Cricketers triumph

Bengaluru: In a low-scoring, yet closely fought final, Rajajinagar Cricketers edged past Bangalore Sports Club (BSC) by five runs to emerge champions of the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament.

At the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, BSC invited Rajajinagar to bat first. The BSC bowlers did well to keep the Rajajinagar batters in check. Just when it seemed like the innings was picking up pace, BSC skipper and spinner Tanshh Krishna dismissed Arnav Dere, the opposition captain. Rajajinagar then lost four wickets for the addition of 18 runs and ended with 178/9. On the bowling side, spinner Vishist PJ returned with figures of 3 for 38. Tanshh and Saurjyesh Das chipped in with two wickets apiece.

Having lost their openers in the first six overs of the chase, Krishna (37) and Viaan Joshi (43) put the campaign back on track with their 62-run third-wicket partnership. But Arnav sent back both the batters and later struck twice in the 39th over to swing the match in his team's favour. Saurjyesh Das fought a lone battle and remained unbeaten on 53. Medium pacer Arnav finished with 5 for 32, while Raghav Vadher took two wickets.

Brief scores: Rajajinagar Cricketers: 178/9 in 50 overs (Prabhav Pydah 34, Dhathvik 31, Vishist PJ 3-38, Tanshh Krishna 2-34, Saurjyesh Das 2-32) **bt Bangalore SC: 173 in 41.3 overs** (Viaan Joshi 43, Krishna 37, Saurjyesh Das 53 n.o.; Raghav Vadher 2-34, Arnav Dere 5-32). TNN

KSCA U-16 INTER-CLUB

Crystal Palace win Conference League

Crystal Palace claimed their first European trophy as Jean-Philippe Mateta's second-half goal secured a 1-0 victory over Rayo Vallecano in the final of the Conference League on Wednesday, the perfect farewell for manager Oliver Glasner.

Neymar a doubt for Brazil's WC opener: Brazil forward Neymar is a doubt for the start of the World Cup after injuring his calf, requiring two to three weeks of treatment, the national team's doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said on Thursday. The 34-year-old will miss Brazil's two pre-World Cup friendlies against Panama and Egypt, but may also be out of their tournament opener against Morocco on June 13.

India go down in semis: The Indian men's national football team crashed out in the semifinal of the Unity Cup 2026 after suffering a 0-2 defeat against Jamaica at The Valley, London. On Wednesday night, Courtney Clarke's stunning early strike in the eighth minute and Kaheim Dixon's solo effort in the 78th minute ensured Jamaica's entry into the final. AGENCIES

This newspaper is published by Manjeet Singh Dhami from Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., Elkar Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru – 560025 (Phones: Office: EPABX - 080- 42200000, Editorial: 080- 46787878) on behalf of Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., edited by Neelam Raaj and printed by Sekar S at Bennett Coleman& Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Ph:- 080-22899999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400001. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.
REGD. NO. CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2003-05, RNI NO. 45466/85

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 127 BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 34 | PRICE ₹6

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No. 1 Jannik Sinner struggles with dizziness amid heat wave in Paris and loses to 56th-ranked Juan Manuel Cerundolo 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1 in French Open 2nd round

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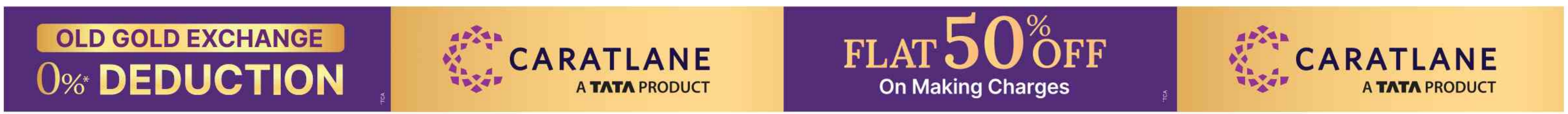
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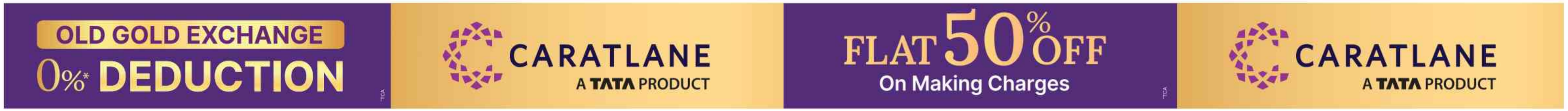
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